



AGAWAM

Advertiser-News

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Volume XXII Number 11

"Your Hometown Newspaper"

March 18, 1999

Honoring Classroom Performance...

Town Of Agawam Recognizes Academic Stars

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Student athletes at high schools from the Berkshires to Cape Cod have the opportunity to earn varsity letters for their accomplishments in sports. But student scholars in Massachusetts can only earn an academic letter for their classroom performance at Agawam High School.

At last week's School Committee meeting, Vice-Chairwoman Susan Pettazzoni saw the program she first proposed in September come to fruition as 82 seniors became the first students in the state to receive academic letters for maintaining a 3.5 grade point average for their work from freshman through junior year.

Mrs. Pettazzoni said she was determined to bring the program to Agawam after reading an article in a national school board journal over the summer describing an academic letter award program at a high school in California.

In September, Mrs. Pettazzoni received enthusiastic support for the program from AHS Principal Joseph Zabielski and later received the unanimous support of the School Committee for a resolution establishing the program as a means of acknowledging student academic success to enhance and promote the district's educational philosophy.

Only Community In The Commonwealth

School Committee Chairman (Mayor) Christopher C. Johnson noted that Agawam is the only community in the Commonwealth and one of the few in the country to recognize students with academic letters. "We're here tonight to put academics on the front burner," Johnson said.

Representing Town Council at the awards ceremony, Council President Donald M. Rheault proposed the addition of a showcase at the High School containing a Roll of Honor to recognize student scholars in the same way student athletes are honored with trophies and plaques for championship seasons.

"For too long, only athletes received a letter," Rheault said. "It is long overdue for academia to stand as tall."

Before awarding the academic letters, Zabielski said the students were the special recipients of a historic moment as the first students in the state to receive such an award. "No one else in the state does this," Zabielski said. "I hope you make the most of the moment of your excellence."

Athletic Director Kathleen McSweeney enjoyed seeing so many student athletes represented in the group of academic stars. "We've worked hard to stress grades with the student athletes and this shows how balanced the kids are in combining athletics, music, and other activities with their academics," Ms. McSweeney said.

Purchased with funds from the school council, the academic letters were presented to:

Cassie Andre, Daniel Balbony, Michelle Beaudette, Pia Bertone-Gross, Michelle Bitgood, Erick Bodurtha, Kimberly Bosini, Danielle Bourdeau, Jessica Briotta, Joni Brodeur, Michael Burba, Andrew Charko, Andrea Cizek, Glenn Corlett, Kelly Cortis, Melissa Crough, Michael

SEE ACADEMICS LETTERS - Page 2...



MAYOR CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON and Agawam High School Principal Joseph Zabielski present academic letters to student scholars at a recent ceremony inaugurating this unique recognition program. Agawam is the only community in the Commonwealth and one of the few in the United States to recognize students with academic letters. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Council Holds Closed Session Vote...

Town Council President To Attend Berkshire Power Hearing In Boston

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Meeting behind closed doors on Monday night, Town Council voted to authorize its attorney to file for standing as interested parties in the case of Berkshire Power's application to the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) for permission to store fuel oil.

In October, the council voted 8-3 to deny Berkshire Power's request to store 500,000 gallons of fuel oil in a storage tank on the site for use as a backup fuel source in the event that the flow of natural gas to the plant is interrupted.

The majority of the council refused to grant the oil storage license after raising concerns over air pollution, transportation safety, the company's evacuation plan, and a distrust of the company's ability to fulfill its promises.

Berkshire Power says the plant will be primarily gas-fired, but fuel oil would be needed to keep the plant operating if the supply of natural gas were to be diverted from industrial to residential customers on the coldest days of the year. The company has received state approval to burn fuel oil for 30 days (720 hours) per year, but expects to switch to oil firing for 100 hours or less in most years.

After the council's executive session, President Donald M. Rheault would give few details of the

vote, other than to confirm a vote of 5-4 in favor of having the council represented at an adjudicatory hearing before the EFSB on Tuesday, April 27th. The hearing will be held in Boston at the siting board's offices at 100 Cambridge Street, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Rheault said the council is being represented by the Springfield law firm of Bacon & Wilson. They will file a petition seeking status as a party in interest at the EFSB hearing before the March 22nd deadline.

"The minutes of the executive session will be available when the hearing is over," Rheault said. "I'm planning to attend the hearing and hopefully, the whole council will attend."

Council Vice-President Robert Magovern said he expected that Rheault would serve as the spokesman for the council.

Certificate Of Environmental Impact/Public Need

Berkshire Power is asking the EFSB for a Certificate of Environmental Impact and Public Need with respect to the generating plant under construction on Moylan Lane. If issued, the certificate would have the effect of granting a fuel oil

SEE BOSTON HEARING - Page 2...

BOSTON HEARING - from Page 1...

storage license for the facility, according to EFSB Hearing Officer M. Kathryn Sedor.

In a memo sent to Town Council last month, Ms. Sedor notes the primary function of the EFSB is to review proposals to construct major energy facilities and that the board reviewed Berkshire Power's proposal before issuing a final decision approving the plant in June 1996.

According to Ms. Sedor's memo, *"The Siting Board also is authorized under certain circumstances to grant a Certificate of Environmental Impact and Public Need which (if granted) shall serve in lieu of permits or approvals which would otherwise be necessary for construction and operation"* (of the plant).

Bacon & Wilson is also representing the council in a lawsuit filed by Berkshire Power in superior court seeking to overturn Town Council's denial of the oil storage permit.

Rheault said the council has spent \$1,500 on legal bills in the Berkshire Power case to date and the final bill could use up the remainder of the \$10,000 appropriated in Town Council's account for outside consultants.

ACADEMIC LETTERS - from Page 1...

DeFilipi, Danielle DeForge, Charles Denison IV, Ann Marie Dimauro.

Jessica Dutton, Shaunessy Egan, David Federico, Joseph Fiore, Jason Flood, Robert Fuller, Jason Gagne, Angela Gontczaruk, Jasjit Gotra, Christina Gregory, Jason Grimaldi, Erin Hanley, Brian Howes, Heather Hughes, Alison Jackobek, Gregory Jubinville, Evan Konopka, Justin Kratovil, Paul LaBarre, Jennifer Loomis, Yuri Lukin.

Nicole Macey, Barbara Maloni, Martha Manning, Diane Marsh, Lisa Marsh, Lindsay Mason, Brenna McGinn, Jennifer McGuire, Holly Moren, Leila Mouneimneh, Kornelia Moysis, Shequela Mungin, Sarah Nacewicz, Jennifer Niedziela, Ronald Ogulewicz, Jamie Pavelcsyk, Amanda Peters, Roberta Przybyla, Erin Rescigno, Nikita Reshamwala, Rebecca Rising.

Crystal Rivers, Brian Rondeau, Shelley Rose, Christopher Rousseau, Leanne Ryan, Sarah Ryder, Robert Santaniello, Mario Santillo, Alicyn Siano, Aaron Skowrya, David Strole, Emily Tamponne, Laura Tenerowicz, David Thomas, Kara Tierney, Robert Welch, Theresa Wesley, Melissa Williams, Robert Wrigley, Patricia Zerra.

Phone Numbers Of Elected Officials**1999 City Council Members****Donald M. Rheault, President**

536 Mill Street
Feeding Hills
786-4043

Robert A. Magovern, Vice-President

144 Birch Hill Road
Agawam
789-0171

George Bitzas

33 Fernwood Drive
Agawam
789-1464

Edward A. Caba

198 Walnut Street
Agawam
786-2479

Gary F. Geiger

33 Zachary Lane
Agawam
789-6756

Gina M. Letellier

150 Maple Street
Agawam
786-4723

John J. Negrucci

35 Hayes Avenue
Feeding Hills
789-2887

Dennis J. Perry

466 North West Street
Feeding Hills
786-1238

Jill P. Simpson

24 Pleasant Valley Road
Feeding Hills
786-0053

Nancy E. Thompson

19A Mansion Woods Drive
Agawam
786-0586

Robert M. Young

216 South Westfield Street
Feeding Hills
786-8995

1999 School Committee Members**Christopher C. Johnson, Chairman**

88 Morningside Circle
Feeding Hills
786-6297

Susan Pettazzoni, Vice-Chairwoman

116 Granger Drive
Feeding Hills
786-9699

Teresa Kozloski, Secretary

102 Meadow Street
Agawam
786-6934

Roberta Doering

915 River Road
Agawam
786-2323

Linda Galarneau

24 Sycamore Terrace
Agawam
789-0245

Louis Massoia, Jr.

6 Sequoia Drive
Feeding Hills
786-5785

Rosemary Sandlin

90 Granger Drive
Feeding Hills
786-3256

SCOTT M. HIBBERT

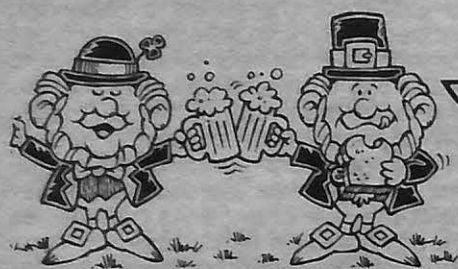
Attorney at Law

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— 12-Pk. Bottles —

Heineken Holland \$9.99 (Plus Deposit)	Amstel Light Holland \$9.99	New Castle Brown Ale England \$11.99 (Plus Deposit)	JW Dundee \$6.99 (Plus Deposit)	Michael Shea Irish Amber \$6.99 (Plus Deposit)	Harp Lager Ireland 6-Pk. Btls. \$5.69 (Plus Deposit)
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LIQUOR SPECIALS

 J&B Rare Scotch (1.75 Ltr.) \$28.99	Glenlivet Single Malt Scotch (750 ml.) \$22.99	Seagram's Grapefruit Twisted Gin (1.75 Ltr.) \$9.99 <i>Less \$3.00 Rebate</i>	Seagram's Lime Twisted Gin (1.75 Ltr.) \$9.99 <i>Less \$3.00 Rebate</i>	 Seagram's Extra Dry Gin (1.75 Ltr.) \$9.99 <i>Less \$3.00 Rebate</i>
Gorden Vodka (1.75 Ltr.) \$12.99	Canadian Club (1.75 Ltr.) \$17.99	Tequila Rose (750 ml.) \$14.99	Captain Morgan Rum (1.75 Ltr.) \$18.49	Bacardi Lemon Rum (750 ml.) \$9.99

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Franzia (5 Ltr. Bag Box)
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Korbel Brut Extra Dry California Champagne
(750 ml.) **\$9.49**

Martini & Rossi Asti Spumante (750 ml.) **\$8.99**

Pol Roger Brut Champagne (Imported From France - 750 ml.) **\$23.99**

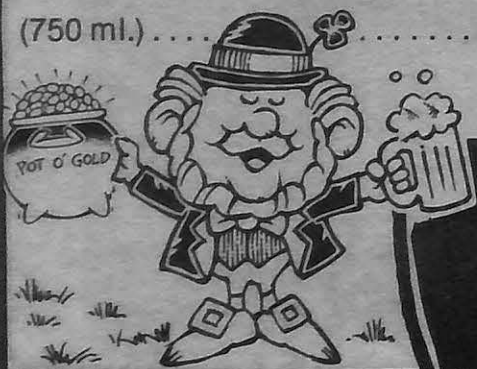
Hedoes Fume-Chardonnay Washington
(750 ml.) **\$6.99**

Blackstone California Merlot (750 ml.) **\$9.99**

Ernest & Julio Gallo Sonoma Varietal Wines (750 ml.)
Chardonnay, Cabernet, Merlot, Zinfandel, Pinot Noir **2 For \$16.00**

Foxhorn Vineyards Santa Barbara
Chardonnay, Cabernet, Merlot (1.5 Ltr.) **\$6.99**
White Zinfandel, Red Zinfandel (1.5 Ltr.) **\$4.99**

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Kiwi Strawberry, Watermelon, Winterberry, Pink
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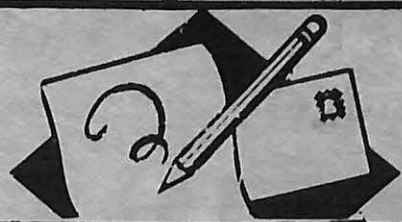
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Letters To The Editor

Why Does Bitzas Feel The Need To Take On The Entire State?

To The Editor:

To Mr. George Bitzas:

Every election year, you seem to come up with an issue. This time it's GAMBLING. Do you *not* have faith in the voters of Agawam?

We voted NO to gambling. Why do you want to take on the *whole* state of Massachusetts?

If you feel so strongly about this issue, why don't you get OFF the council and run for governor?

Thank you,
Ernestine Book
Agawam

Town Residents Say Thanks To Emergency Personnel

To The Editor:

To All Agawam Police, Firemen, & Paramedics:

On behalf of the Paleologopoulos and Grimaldi family, we would like to extend our deepest thanks and gratitude to all who responded to the 911 call placed on February 28th to our home on River Road.

Your immediate response and professionalism made the difference and is deeply appreciated. Thank you to the paramedics who remained at the hospital with us. Most of all, my personal, deepest thanks to the initial dispatcher who remained on the line with me as he promised he would. You made the difference and for that, I am grateful.

You are a *very* special group of people. Again, our deepest thanks.

Sincerely,
Maryann Paleologopolos
Agawam

C.Y.O. Basketball Parents Question Unnamed "Coach"

To The Editor:

We, the parents of the girls' fifth- and sixth-grade St. John's basketball C.Y.O. (sponsored by the Agawam Athletic Association), would like to ask why an unnamed "coach" from the Sacred Heart C.Y.O. in Agawam (Agawam Basketball Organization) would launch a "protest" to purposely stop our daughters' participation in the C.Y.O. New England Bishop's Tournament.

On Wednesday, March 10th, as stated in a letter we received from the C.Y.O. New England Tournament Director, a "coach" from the Sacred Heart

basketball team from Feeding Hills informed tournament officials that he was "protesting" our daughters' participation in the New England Bishop's tournament. This coach further stated, according to the letter, that our girls should not be allowed into the tournament because they attended two parishes.

What this "coach" did not know was that even though these girls did attend both parishes, we — their parents — had first contacted the local C.Y.O. director regarding the eligibility rule. We then, on our own, were involved in open, honest communication with both pastors. Both churches share many athletic activities, and both pastors were kind enough to agree that the girls could enter this tournament as one parish. It was the parents of these eight young girls who initiated this, not their coaches.

We find it hard to believe that this coach from the Agawam Basketball Organization would stoop so low as to try to get these eight girls (from his own hometown) disqualified, without even knowing any of the details of whom we had spoken to regarding their participation in this tournament.

These girls had been co-champions of the C.Y.O. fifth- and sixth-grade season, and had lost only one game to the Ludlow C.Y.O. They had been working all year towards the goal of making it into this Western Mass. tournament.

We have heard time and time again from various youth organizations and their coaches that they are there "only for the good of the children." What we would like to ask is, if this coach truly feels that he did this for the "good" of these children, or was his purpose solely to hurt the other coach or his organization?

It is our opinion that this action was taken because of animosity felt towards our coach and our organization. Unfortunately, in reality, it was the girls that were hurt in the long run. We also ask if this coach feels that he did the right "Christian" thing by having these girls disqualified?

The children from both basketball organizations have had no problems getting along well with one another. They should be commended for this. Destructive behavior by adults can only hurt all of our children in the long run. Ultimately, it will be these children (no matter which organization that they came from) that hopefully will come together to be united as one team in high school.

In closing, we feel that it is a shame that this Agawam Basketball Organization coach's actions kept these young girls from playing in this tournament. Our daughters are asking us why this coach (from their own hometown) would try to stop them from playing in a tournament that they had spent their whole season striving to participate in.

If this unnamed coach would like to come out from behind his telephone, then our girls and their parents would like to personally thank him for abruptly ending their very successful basketball season.

Sincerely,
Parents of the St. John's C.Y.O.
(Agawam A.A.) basketball team
Larry and Barbara Barker
Tom and Nancy Cullen
Jerry and Ginny Czuprynski
Marty and Ellen Davilli
Dave and Barbara Jenney
Tom and Donna Peltier
John and Darlene Pokora
Jim and Barbara Powell

Agawam Democrats Support Charter Review/Revision

The Agawam Democratic Committee, at its March meeting, unanimously voted to undertake charter review and possible revision as a committee project.

The committee, with the help of all interested citizens of Agawam, hopes to collect the 2,500 signatures needed to have the non-partisan question placed on the ballot. If the required number of signatures are gathered, the voters of Agawam will then be allowed to vote on whether they want an elected commission formed to inspect and possibly revise the city's present and only charter.

The original charter was adopted in 1971 as a City Council/City Manager form of government. In 1988, Agawam changed to a Mayor/City Council form of government, but never revised the charter to actually reflect the new change. As a result, as many have argued, Agawam has a mayoral form of government operating under a manager type of charter.

Because of this, many of the checks and balances that made Agawam's government operate more efficiently and completely in the citizens' best interests were removed. It is with this in mind that the people of Agawam be given the choice of upgrading the charter to make it better and more efficient.

The revision process is a simple, yet lengthy one. Once the signatures are gathered, the question is then placed on the ballot asking, "Shall a commission be elected to revise the charter of Agawam?" Also, anyone wishing to run as a commissioner will be listed on the same ballot. If the voters approve the question, the commission then immediately begins its work by meeting to review the present charter, hold public hearings, gather public input and suggestions, and then submit any proposed changes to the voters.

For many years, various individuals and groups have suggested or attempted to have the review question placed on the ballot. There have been as many reasons why some form of revision is needed. Besides the need for better oversight, many people have felt they have no one in government to turn to for help when ignored by elected officials or city departments. There are also many who feel any changes should include changing the size of the City Council or having a recall provision that would help prevent elected officials from acting in their own or special interests.

The Democratic Committee wants to stress two points. First, although this is starting out as their project, the committee hopes it will take on a life of its own and become a totally non-partisan community project made up of citizens from all areas of the community and political belief. Secondly, it should be understood that this petition only allows for the election of a commission to review the possibility of revision. It in no way automatically accepts anything that the commission does. Such approval will come at a later time in which the commission's suggestions will then go back on the ballot for the voters' approval.

The Democratic Committee looks forward to the involvement of the many people of Agawam who want to help accomplish and complete this project. Anyone interested in becoming involved can contact any member of the Democratic Committee for petitions or nomination papers.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

AGAWAM TOWN COUNCIL
AGAWAM, MA

THE AGAWAM TOWN COUNCIL WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 20, 1999 AT 7:30 p.m. AT THE AGAWAM MIDDLE SCHOOL, 68 MAIN STREET, AGAWAM, MA. ON THE APPLICATION OF CRESTVIEW COUNTRY CLUB FOR A LICENSE TO KEEP, STORE FOR PERSONAL USE/ OR RESALE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN UNDERGROUND TANKS OR ABOVE GROUND NOT TO EXCEED 1,000 GALLONS AT 275 SHOEMAKER LANE IN THE TOWN OF AGAWAM, MA.

Richard M. Theroux, Town Clerk
Published: March 18, 1999

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

AGAWAM TOWN COUNCIL
AGAWAM, MA

THE AGAWAM TOWN COUNCIL WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 20, 1999 AT 7:30 p.m. AT THE AGAWAM MIDDLE SCHOOL, 68 MAIN STREET, AGAWAM, MA ON THE APPLICATION OF LUCIA LUMBER CO. FOR A LICENSE TO KEEP, STORE FOR PERSONAL USE/OR RESALE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN UNDERGROUND TANKS OR ABOVE GROUND NOT TO EXCEED 20,000 GALLONS AT 777 SILVER STREET IN THE TOWN OF AGAWAM, MA.

RICHARD M. THEROUX
TOWN CLERK
PUBLISHED: MARCH 18, 1999

Remember, our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you!



The Agawam Advertiser•News

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Production Staff

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Richard Sardella Publisher & Owner
Ellen Lightcap Production Manager/Graphic Artist
Teri Machia Assistant Production Manager
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Jack Devine Photographer
Kathy Cassanelli News Editor
Dave Rollins Sports Editor
Peggy Shoemaker Feature Writer

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Agawam School Committee Gives Thumbs Up To First Review Of Next Year's School Budget

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

In the first of three budget workshops, the School Committee was unanimous in giving tentative approval to spending plans covering the four elementary schools, the central office, transportation, the gifted program for fourth-through sixth-graders, and the School Committee.

At a joint workshop session of the School Committee and Town Council's school budget review committee on Tuesday evening, School Superintendent Frank Ameruso said the budget represents a cooperative effort beginning at the grass roots level with teachers, principals, and the central office staff working together in a five-month process. "We are not here to defend our budget; we are here to explain it and answer any questions you may have," Ameruso said.

Ameruso said his \$22.9 million budget proposal reflects a moderate rate of growth as compared to the phenomenal growth rate of eight to 10 percent as seen in the last three years. Some areas of the spending plan have been level funded, but those areas will receive "very generous level funding due to the growth over the last three years," Ameruso said.

In an overview of the budget proposal, Deputy Superintendent Donald Charest said the negotiated salary increase for school department personnel plus the salaries for the new positions

proposed in the budget will account for the lion's share (\$891,732) of the overall increase of 4.08 percent (\$899,929) in school spending in fiscal year 2000.

The additional positions proposed by the central office are: a fourth-grade teacher at Phelps, a second-grade teacher at Clark, .5 reading recovery teacher at Clark, a fifth-grade teacher at the Middle School, a foreign language teacher at the Junior High School, 1½ vision teacher assistants in Special Education, and a library assistant for the elementary schools. New positions at the High School include a science teacher, a math teacher, 5/7 physical education teacher, and 4/7 foreign language teacher.

School Choice Funds For Textbooks...

Charest said little has been requested in the budget for textbooks because two weeks ago the School Committee approved the expenditure of \$130,000 of school choice funds for textbooks. Next year, the School Department wants to use about half of the estimated \$200,000 in school choice revenue to purchase books and materials for the four new library/media centers at the elementary schools. The remainder of those school choice funds, as well as \$50,000 in the reserve account, will be held in abeyance in the event that there are unforeseen expenses in the special education department, Charest said.

"We had four new libraries open at the elementary schools and we have to have something to put on those shelves," Charest said. "Our intent is to ask the School Committee to earmark half of the School Choice money that will become available on July 1st for the libraries. We are developing a three- to four-year plan for the libraries and \$100,000 will be an excellent start."

The computers cost center has been level funded for next year, but the School Department is hoping for some funding from the town's capital improvement budget for computers at the elementary level, Charest said.

Suggesting no cuts or additions to the budget, the School Committee tentatively approved the budget requests as submitted by the administration for School Committee (\$51,430); Central Office (\$567,949); Transportation (\$1,444,570); Gifted (\$102,937); Clark School (\$918,703); Granger School (\$1,042,585); Phelps School (\$1,000,492); and Robinson Park School (\$1,072,551).

The School Committee will meet in workshop sessions to consider the remaining cost centers of the superintendent's budget on Tuesday, March 30th, and Tuesday, April 13th, in the Middle School auditorium at 7:00 p.m. Final approval for the budget is expected after a public hearing before the School Committee in April.

Keenan Thanks Agawam For Watching His Cable T.V. Show

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan wishes to thank Agawam residents for tuning into his local cable television show. Over the past four months, Keenan has received excellent feedback from his local viewers.

"The response to the show has been tremendous," stated Keenan. "I hope people continue to watch, and share their ideas and comments with me."

From *Your House to the State House with Representative Dan Keenan* first debuted two years ago on Channel 9, the community access channel. A new show continues to be broadcast on Channel 9 on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. each month.

"I remember one viewer told me I was talking too much, and I should let the guest do more talking," Keenan said. "After watching the show again, I realized she was right."

Senator Melconian Relocates District Office To West Spfld.

State Senator Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) is pleased to announce the relocation of her district office from 375 Walnut Street Extension, Agawam, to 664 Union Street in West Springfield.

Melconian was the first legislator to set up and staff a full-time district office and called this move great news for his constituents. "My office will now be handicap-accessible, with additional space to better accommodate the needs of my constituents."

The district office will continue to operate Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The mailing address will be 664 Union Street, West Springfield, MA 01089.

Constituents can still use the same phone number as before, 786-6033, as well as the new phone number, 785-0820. The fax line number is now 785-0821.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM AGAWAM TOWN COUNCIL

The Agawam Town Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 5, 1999 at the Agawam Middle School, 68 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of twenty-one (21) registered voters for a proposed amendment to the Agawam Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 180, by adding a provision relative to delaying the demolition of historically significant buildings. A copy of the proposed zoning amendment can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office or the Agawam Town Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. in the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

Ursula Retzler
Clerk of the Council

Published: March 18, 1999

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Five Acres From Berkshire Power...

Recreation Study Committee Mulling Over Land Offer

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Appointed by the Mayor in January, the 11-member Recreation Study Committee is taking inventory of all the publicly and privately owned recreational facilities in town, including Berkshire Power's offer of five acres off Industrial Lane for recreational use by town residents.

The study committee, chaired by School Committee Vice-Chairwoman Susan Pettazzoni, has been charged with assessing the current and future recreational needs for town residents of all ages and coming up with both long- and short-term plans to meet those needs.

With representatives from all aspects of the community, the committee has been meeting to assess what facilities the town currently has for active and passive recreation and to assess present and future recreational needs for town residents from birth onward, Mrs. Pettazzoni said.

Mayor Christopher C. Johnson said Berkshire Power has offered the town a five-acre parcel of land for recreational use as set down during the permitting process for the power plant. Presently in use as a staging area during the construction of the plant, the land is located on the eastern part of the Berkshire Power site with access from Industrial Lane, Johnson said.

"Berkshire Power is still using the parcel as a staging area, so the earliest we could have it on board will be next spring (in the year 2000). We are in the very preliminary stages of looking at layouts for the site. It will likely be used for one large athletic field and there will still be adequate parking on the site," Johnson said. "This will definitely add to our inventory for playing fields."

Berkshire Power Project Manager Frank Basile said the five acres would be configured in a manner that will achieve the best use for current recreational needs.

"We will listen to the recommendations of the Recreation Study Committee, construct the fields that are needed, and deed the land as a gift to the citizens of Agawam," Basile said.

Mrs. Pettazzoni said the committee is rather excited by the "extraordinarily generous" offer. "The town has a need for more playing fields and Berkshire Power is going to fulfill a need by constructing a field and a parking lot," Mrs. Pettazzoni said.

The Recreation Study Committee members are volunteers who submitted letters of interest to the Mayor's office last year. The committee members are Jack O'Neill, Joe Mineo, Bill Daubman, Joann McGeoghan, Charleen Tyler, Tom Tierney, Karla Young, and Town Councilors Robert Young, George Bitzas, and Jill Simpson.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 25, 1999 at 7:45 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of C&E Tobacco, Inc. for work to be performed on North West Street, subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
Published: March 18, 1999

* * *

You turn our pages for all
the hometown news...

* * *

Keenan Supports "Read Aloud Month"...



DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH, State Representative Daniel F. Keenan will read to over 100 of his youngest citizens to promote March as *Read Aloud Month*. "I would hate to pass up an opportunity to read to our young," stated Rep. Keenan. In his efforts to cultivate young minds, Keenan has read to students in Mrs. Swikalus' class at Clark Elementary School (pictured above), and to Mrs. Crean's students at Robinson Park School in Agawam. Keenan's next visit will be with Head Start students in Southwick on March 26th. Advertiser News

photo by Jack Devine.

Veterans' Corner...

Why Isn't There An Audie Murphy Stamp???

by Ruth C. Bitzas

Veterans' Agent — 786-0400, Ext. 236/237

A recent "Letter to the Editor" in the *Stars and Stripes* caught my attention. A World War II veteran wrote:

"We are dismayed that there is no stamp commemorating Audie Murphy's heroism. Something's wrong when we can honor Elvis, Marilyn Monroe, and Bugs Bunny, but not someone like Murphy. If ever a person deserved to be honored with a U.S. postage stamp, it was Audie Murphy, America's most decorated hero in World War II.

"As veterans of WWII, many of us wish we had the courage to do what he did. Murphy won three Purple Hearts, two Bronze Stars, the Legion of Merit, two Silver Stars, a Distinguished Service Cross, and to top it off, the Medal of Honor. France awarded Murphy two Croix de Guerre and the Legion of Honor Chevalier, yet America has still not issued a commemorative stamp in his honor.

"Americans must look ridiculous overseas when parcels and letters arrive from us with strips of stamps portraying our national celebrity, Bugs Bunny. Come on, Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee and Postmaster General — issue a stamp for a hero who risked his life for us all.

"Without heroism, we would be speaking another language and honoring Hitler. We urge all Americans to write to the Postal Service and request that it issue an Audie Murphy stamp. Write to: Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, D.C. 20260-2437."

Sounds like a really good idea to me. I think I'll write and request just that, and I hope you will, too!

* * *

"Veterans' Corner" is a weekly feature of The AAN...

This week, we are continuing to publish our listing of Vietnam War veterans whose Home of Record is Agawam (meaning they lived in Agawam at the time they entered the military).

This week's list of veterans, with last names beginning with the letter "S," will be included on the Honor Roll to be erected on the Veterans' Green.

AGAWAM VIETNAM VETERANS - "S"

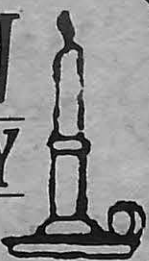
Winfield S. Safford, Richard J. Sagan, Wesley J. Sage, Sidney A. Sandgren, Guiseppe P. Santaniello, Charles A. Santinello, Richard F. Sassarone, Donald E. Savaria, James M. Scala, John J. Scales, Francis L. Scherpa, Jr., Louis V. Scherpa, Jr.

George J. Schlagel, Jeffrey G. Schlagel, Mark J. Schlagel, Erich A. Schmidt, Robert W. Schmidt, Gary W. Schneider, William M. Schindler, Ronald G. Sena, Floyd W. Sessions, James A. Sevine, Glenn F. Seymour, William W. Shakespeare, Ellsworth L. Sharpe, Kevin M. Shea, Robert E. Sigris, Robert J. Sirois, William J. Sliech, William J. Smidt, Anthony J. Smigelski, Jr., Alan L. Smith, Elmer R. Smith, Robert R. Smith.

Andrew M. Soffen, Fred M. Soffen, Erwin J. Soper III, Raymond V. Spear, Jeffrey P. St. Jean, Jordan P. St. John, Edward E. St. Onge, Jr., William J. St. Peter, Roger J. St. Pierre, Eugene J. Starzic, William J. Starzyk, Jr., Michael A. Stawasz, Robert L. Stawasz, Roger L. Stawasz, Charles E. Stebbins, James E. Stebbins.

Richard G. Steeves, Humphrey Stevenson, Edward A. Stewart, Kirby A. Strole, Jr., Charlotte M. Strom, David J. Suffriti, Daniel F. Sullivan, Daniel John Sullivan, Daniel Joseph Sullivan, James E. Sullivan III, Richard W. Sullivan, Richard R. Sullivan, Roy M. Sullivan, Henryk J. Szewczynski.

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Melconian Backs Funding For Human Service Providers

Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) is pleased to announce her strong support of legislation for the 1999-2000 term that would tie funding for social service contracts to increases in inflation.

These contracts, which include services for childcare, mental health, elder affairs, and the handicapped, received inflation adjustments in the 1980's, but in the last 15 years have received only modest increases for lower-salary workers. During that time, costs associated with these services have grown 74.9 percent.

"Inflation has eroded basic services and people are suffering," said Melconian. "We cannot ignore our responsibilities to the most vulnerable members of our society by pretending that level funding doesn't mean a cut in services."

Rising costs mean that providers are forced to make difficult decisions on a daily basis. The rising cost of rent or a mortgage means after-school programs must be taught by a teaching assistant instead of a certified teacher. Mental health providers cannot retain clinical staff after training because private sector jobs often pay as much as \$10,000 more a year.

Melconian is pleased to be the lead sponsor of the bill that ties \$1.9 billion in human service provider contracts to the rate of inflation for social services. This rate is calculated annually by the state Office of Administration and Finance. Service provider contracts would then receive a cost-of-living increase annually, similar to the increases for Social Security and veterans' benefits.

"We have asked human service providers to do more with less and they have responded with increased efficiency and innovative programs," said Melconian. "But funding dollars can only be stretched so far. These providers have reached a crisis point and it is time for the Legislature to act."

The agencies whose funding is affected by the bill are the Department of Public Health, Department of Youth Services, Department of Social Services, Department of Mental Health, Department of Mental Retardation, Department of Transitional Assistance, Department of Housing & Community Development, Commission for the Blind, Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Rehabilitation Commission, Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Office of Refugee & Immigrants, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and the Office of Childcare Services.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

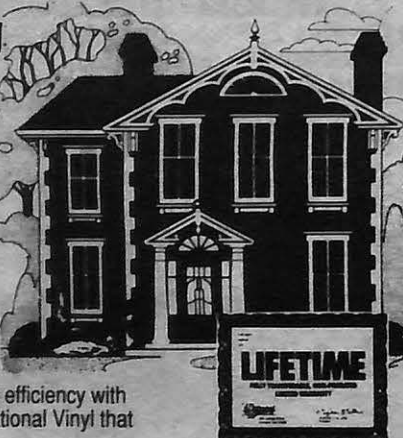
The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, March 25, 1999 at 7:30 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Premier Parks, Inc. for property located on the west side of Main Street (Main Street Improvements).

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
Published: March 18, 1999

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* * *

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AGAWAM MAYOR CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON (center) recently accepted a check from Riverside Park that will be used for the benefit of the Agawam Police Department. Advertiser

News photo by Jack Devine.

Riverside Park Makes Donation To Agawam Police Department

Funds Will Help Buy New Vehicles, Supplies For DARE Program

The Agawam Police Department is adding a couple of vehicles to its fleet, thanks to a major contribution from Riverside Park. The \$9,500 donation will be used to help purchase a Community Policing Van and supplies for the town's DARE program.

"This is our home," says Riverside General Manager Tim Black. "The department presented their needs to us, and we were happy to help them reach their goals."

The department received one federal grant and one state grant. Those funds paid for a prisoner transport vehicle and part of the Community

Policing Van. Riverside offered to pay the balance.

Agawam Acting Chief of Police Lt. William Sliech says part of the donation will also benefit the DARE program. According to Sliech, "Riverside has always been a strong supporter of the Drug Awareness and Resistance Education program."

Agawam Mayor Christopher Johnson agrees. "Our community policing efforts and the DARE program are two of the most important police initiatives in the department. Riverside has again stepped to the plate to help improve Agawam."

For photo coverage in The AAN, contact photographer Jack Devine at 789-0053; however, please give him at least 48 hours' notice prior to your event.

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— Agawam Obituaries —

Leon E. DiDonato

Leon E. DiDonato, 65, of Moore Street, Agawam, a 32-year papermaker for Southworth Paper Co., died recently at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Born in New London, Connecticut, he lived in Agawam for 40 years and was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in West Springfield.

He leaves a sister, Rosemary A. Rockwell of Agawam.

The funeral was held at Agawam Funeral Home, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the church at 1552 Westfield Street, West Springfield, MA 01089.

Donald E. Flathers

Donald E. Flathers, 79, of Hope Farm Road in Feeding Hills, died recently at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

He was a 39-year employee of Uniroyal Corp. in Chicopee.

Born in Springfield, he was a 1938 graduate of the former Technical High School.

He leaves his wife of 58 years, the former Rita Burrelle; two sons, George of Ludlow and Keith of Feeding Hills; two daughters, Joan B. Yacovone of Springfield and Donna Goulette of East Hartford; two brothers, Douglas of Wilbraham and Paul of Springfield; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

The memorial service was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home, with burial at the convenience of the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 1111 Elm Street, Suite 9A, West Springfield, MA 01089.

Edwin O. Ziegert

Edwin O. Ziegert, 92, of West Springfield, died recently at a local nursing home.

He was a retired compositor for F.A. Bassette in Springfield, where he worked for 45 years.

He was born in Poughkeepsie, New York, and was a resident of West Springfield since 1948.

He was a World War II Navy veteran.

He was a member of the Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills.

He leaves his wife, the former Bertha Beaulieu; a son, George E. of Feeding Hills; and three grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his granddaughter, Lisa Ziegert, in 1992.

The funeral was held at the Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home and in the church, with burial in St. Rose De Lima Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Lisa M. Ziegert Memorial Fund, 58 Spruce Circle, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

Anna L. Albano

Anna L. (Albano) Albano, 85, of 104 Brien Street, Agawam, a retired seamstress, died recently at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

She worked at the former Belsky's in Springfield for 30 years.

Born and schooled in Springfield, she moved to Agawam 30 years ago.

She was a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

Her husband, Alfred J. Albano, died in 1973.

She leaves a son, Wayne of Feeding Hills; a sister, Margaret Liquori of Agawam; and three grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills, with burial in St. Michael's Cemetery, Springfield. Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Alice D. Blank

Alice Donnellan Blank, a long-time resident of Springfield, MA, and a teacher in that city, died on March 4th at First Health-Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

She was a graduate of Elms College in Chicopee, Fitchburg State Teachers College, and the University of Connecticut, where she received a master's degree.

She taught at Cathedral High School in Springfield for 24 years and retired in 1979.

She leaves two sons, Jere of Southern Pines, North Carolina, and Dr. John P. of Orono, Minnesota; a brother, the Rev. Francis Donnellan of the Society of St. Edmund in Selma, Alabama; and nine grandchildren.

The funeral was held at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Southern Pines.

The memorial Mass will be held on the morning of Saturday, March 20th, at St. John the Evangelist Church in Agawam. Boles Funeral Home of Pinehurst was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to Elms College, 291 Springfield Street, Chicopee, MA 01013, or the Building Fund of St. John the Evangelist Church, Agawam, MA 01001.

Phyllis A. Ziemba

Phyllis A. (Sypek) Ziemba, 76, of Castle Hill Road, Agawam, and formerly of Chicopee, died recently at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

She was a 30-year statistical secretary for The Wall Street Journal Co., and worked later at the Mount St. Vincent Nursing Home of Holyoke. She retired in 1992.

Born in Chicopee, she was a 75-year resident of that city before moving to Agawam last year.

She was a communicant and eucharistic minister of the Basilica of St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr, and a member of the Rosary Society. Her husband, John R. Ziemba, died in 1986.

She leaves two daughters, Linda A. Ziemba of Agawam and Ann B. Ziemba of Chicopee, and a sister, Josephine Urbanski of Chicopee.

The funeral was held at Kozikowski Funeral Home and the basilica, with burial in the parish cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 1111 Elm Street, West Springfield, MA 01089, or the basilica at 566 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

Raymond P. Geddis

Raymond P. Geddis, 60, of 104 Kanawha Avenue, Agawam, died recently at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

He had worked for the Postal Service at the Main Street Post Office in Springfield and retired in 1997.

He was born and educated in Athol, and had been a resident of Agawam since 1977.

He was a 21-year member of the Air Force and retired in 1977 as a technical sergeant. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War.

He leaves his wife, the former Susan Ikeda; two sons, Alan R. of Townsend and Glenn R. of Southwick; a daughter, Barbara L. Martins of Springfield; a brother, Leonard of Agawam; a sister, Ruth McNeil of Turners Falls; and six grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home, with burial in Agawam Center Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 1111 Elm Street, Suite 9A, West Springfield, MA 01089.

Olga Zielinski

Olga (Gonczewski) Zielinski, 83, of Agawam, died recently at home.

She was a member of the Associated Bible Students for many years.

She leaves her husband, Mitchell; two sons, Daniel and Timothy; a daughter, Betsy Zielinski; a brother, Alexander Gonczewski; a sister, Sophie Zielinski; and five grandchildren.

The funeral and burial were scheduled to be private at the convenience of the family. The Heritage Funeral Home, West Suffield, was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Olga Zielinski Memorial Fund, in care of Westfield Savings Bank, Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

LEGAL NOTICE

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TOWN OF AGAWAM AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, March 25, 1999 at 7:15 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Premier Parks, Inc. for property located on the west side of Main Street (overflow parking lot).

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
Published: March 18, 1999

LEGAL NOTICE

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TOWN OF AGAWAM AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, March 25, 1999 at 8:00 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Arnold/Lewis for property located on South West Street.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
Published: March 18, 1999

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* * *



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Fire Wise...

by Fire Chief David Pisano

Fire Safety Tips For Senior Citizens

If you are age 65 or older, you are your own best insurance against fire and burn injuries. Fire safety isn't just for children because (like children) older Americans are at a greater risk of being injured or killed from fires or burn injuries than other adults. The Agawam Fire Department encourages you to take some time to look for and correct fire hazards around your home.

Make sure you have at least one working smoke detector on each level of your home. They should be tested once a month, and the battery should be changed annually.

Have an escape plan. Know two ways out of every room in case fire or smoke block one way out. Remember, during a fire the breathable air is close to the floor, so crawl low under smoke. Once you get out, stay out and call the fire department (911) from a neighbor's. Keep your glasses and a flashlight by your bed.

If you smoke or have smokers in your home, extra precautions should be taken. Each year careless smoking is a major cause of fires. A lit cigarette that falls onto a bed or sofa can smoulder for hours. You should never smoke in bed or when lying down.

Make sure large, deep ashtrays are used and

that all smoking materials have been extinguished completely. Dispose of butts in a metal container or douse with water before emptying into a trash can.

The kitchen is another area that can be very dangerous if certain precautions are not followed. Make sure your stove is clean and free of grease build-up. Keep flammables, such as towels and pot holders, away from the stove and oven.

Turn pot handles away from the front of the stove so they won't be knocked off or pulled down. If you're called away from the kitchen during food preparation, turn all burners off. If you have a stove fire, put a lid on it, turn off the heat, and let it cool.

Many fires are caused by home heating. You should have your heating system checked annually by a qualified professional. If you use portable electric or kerosene heaters, make sure they have at least three feet of clearance around them while in operation and always follow the manufacturer's instructions for their use.

Make sure you've insured your safety at home by knowing what to do in case of a fire. Contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662 if you have any questions or need more information.

Special Meeting For Agawam/Feeding Hills AARP

A refreshing break from our informational programs on health, safety, etc., we are proud to have on board for Monday, March 22nd, a very knowledgeable gentleman who will bring us back in time in history regarding Puritan influence on democracy in New England.

The speaker's name is none other than Mr. Robert Magovern, Vice-President of the Agawam City Council. Mr. Magovern has been in love with the history of the region for as long as he can remember.

His vast knowledge doesn't come from reading one book, but many. In his words, "History is the rudder on the ship of life." Mr. Magovern's ancestors came to Agawam on the Mayflower in 1640.

This program is open to members and non-members. There will be a short meeting prior to the program.

The starting time is 1:00 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center. If you have never been to the Senior Center, take Wright Street off Main, and take the only left turn; you will then be in the Senior Center parking area.

Senator Linda Melconian Says Workforce Training Fund Is Now Taking Grant Requests

Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) is pleased to announce the Workforce Training Fund that the Senate established in July of 1998 is now taking grant requests. The goal of the \$18 million fund is to provide resources that allow businesses and employee organizations to train current and newly-hired employees.

The training grants, which can range from \$5,000 to \$250,000, are awarded competitively to employers, employer organizations, labor organizations, and training providers. These grants do not impose training restrictions; thus, all Massachusetts-based employees are eligible for the programs (which may last up to two years).

Melconian urges all workers to take advantage of this new state fund enacted into law last July.

"Training workers is essential in producing a qualified workforce and endowing workers with the skills and tools necessary to be productive in their various businesses," she stated. "This fund will provide applicants with resources that they can invest in the workforce and which, in turn, can maintain the strength and viability of the Commonwealth's businesses. The result will be job retention, job growth, and increased wages."

Application packets are available through the Division of Employment and Training at 1-800-252-1591, and the Massachusetts Office of Business

Development and Regional Employment Boards. Information and application forms are also available on the Internet at www.detma.org/workforce.

According to Melconian, the deadline for the next round of applications is at 5:00 p.m. on April 5, 1999.

"I hope many workers will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity," stated Melconian. She also urges applicants from her district to let her office know when they apply, and to contact her if she can be of any assistance to them throughout the application process.

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REPRESENTING RIVERSIDE PARK'S unveiling of the new Agawam Chamber logo were (from left to right) Dan O'Keefe, Promotions Manager; Shari Blackman, Marketing Manager; Ron Severt, Director of Marketing; Timothy Black, General Manager; and Christine Walbridge, Marketing Coordinator.

Agawam Chamber Of Commerce Hosts Legislative Breakfast

Over 80 business leaders recently filled the main room of the newly-restored Captain Leonard House for the Agawam Chamber of Commerce legislative breakfast. Agawam Chamber President Linda Northup Vitro, David R. Northup Electric, thanked the group for coming and introduced the many City Councilors, School Committee members, and municipal employees also in attendance.

Following comments from State Senator Linda J. Melconian, State Representative Daniel F. Keenan, Mayor Christopher C. Johnson, and City Council President Donald M. Rheault, the audience participated in a lively question-and-answer session on the issues that affect Agawam and the region.

Chamber program committee chair, Dr. Tami Nelson from Hampden County Chiropractic, along with committee members Rick Bellico from Woronoco Savings Bank and Joanne McGeoghan from Berkshire Power, judged the breakfast a great success. "The Agawam Chamber is dedicated to providing forums, such as the legislative breakfast, that offer business leaders an opportunity to meet and discuss the issues with their legislators," said Nelson.

Agawam's legislative breakfast followed the recent Greater Springfield Chamber's Outlook '99 event. Both programs were sponsored by Woronoco Savings Bank. Rick Bellico, Vice-President of the Agawam Chamber, also reminded business leaders to mark their calendars for the April 7, 1999 "Operation Boston" trip.

"The Chamber encourages business leaders to reserve a seat on this one-day bus trip to the State House. Over the course of the day, we'll hear from the legislators and key committee chairs on their objectives for 1999," said Bellico. Tickets are available from the Chamber; please call 787-1555.

The Chamber also unveiled its new logo that was designed as a courtesy by the graphics department at Riverside Park. Ron Severt and his staff were on-hand to receive the congratulations from the entire Chamber. The logo design is a full-color graphic depiction of the gazebo on Veterans' Green.

Recent new Chamber members were also saluted at the breakfast. They included Atty. Cecilia Calabrese, Atty. Mark D. Sullivan, Data Methods, Inc., Godbout Builders, Media Signs Supply, Ltd., and Online Computers, Inc.



STATE REP. DANIEL F. KEENAN addresses the audience at the Agawam Chamber of Commerce's recently held legislative breakfast.

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Agawam

Agawam UNICO Donates To Easter Seals...



ON BEHALF OF EASTER SEALS, Martha Kerson, Annual Campaign Director, accepts a donation from Agawam UNICO at its monthly meeting held at Alexander's Restaurant in Feeding Hills. At this meeting, she gave a brief presentation on the various programs Easter Seals provides to the handicapped in our community. Pictured above with Kerson are (from left to right) UNICO members Dennis Marchetto, Louis Russo, and Ed Disco. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Our deadline is each Tuesday at noon...



PAYTON ANN BELLOWES

The Bellows Announce Birth Of Baby Daughter, Payton Ann

Tim and Laura Bellows are proud to announce the newest addition to their family, Payton Ann. Payton was born October 19th, five days before her Aunt Lisa Dialessi's wedding in October, making her the youngest in attendance at the wedding. Trenton, Payton's older brother, is thrilled to have a little sister to pester. Bill and Ellen Bellows of Feeding Hills are the paternal grandparents, and John and Rosalie Dialessi, also of Feeding Hills, are the maternal grandparents.

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While advances in medical research have given thousands of Americans with cancer more hope than ever, we still haven't been able to solve the most basic problem of transportation.

But you can help. And we hope you will. Through the American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery program, you can help by volunteering to drive a cancer patient to and from a treatment facility. If you have a car, safe driving skills, and can drive as little as one morning or afternoon a month, you can help give someone the most precious of all gifts: the chance for a fuller life.

For more information, call your American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345. Call today. And help us drive cancer from the face of the earth.

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HOME SHOW '99 Coming To West Springfield March 23rd-28th

The 46th edition of New England's largest home show returns Tuesday, March 23rd, through Sunday, March 28th, as **HOME SHOW '99**. The "Original" Western Massachusetts Home Show kicks off the 1999 home-building and remodeling season at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield.

HOME SHOW '99 will welcome an expected 85,000 visitors from New England and the Northeast to view hundreds of exhibits representing the finest and latest products, services, and ideas for home-building and living. Coinciding with the beginning of spring, this year's version of the "Original" Western Massachusetts Home Show is the year's first and most important consumer showcase for new home construction and renovations.

As one would expect of the region's largest and longest-running home expo, **HOME SHOW '99** will display the region's finest builders, craftsmen and artisans, and the newest products, materials, and services for the home and garden. More than 400 exhibitors await the public in three buildings and an open air exhibit area. The majority of exhibitors will appear in the Better Living Center and Young Building, encompassing over seven acres.

A dramatic feature display in the Better Living Center, entitled "Rooms to Come Home To," will combine a state-of-the-art kitchen, a great room and dining room, and a lush, landscaped scenario.

The **Festival of the Home Building** (normally the Eastern States' Stroh Building) will serve as the host of a wide variety of Home Show activities, including entertainment, information, and recreational displays. Showgoers will see and sample the delicious fare of the Home Show Kitchen, featuring top chefs and cooking authorities from throughout Western Massachusetts.

The **Interior Design Showcase** will be the centerpiece of the Festival of the Home Building. The exhibit will assemble a collection of suites of furniture, expressing the latest in furnishings and interior decorating ideas.

Fine art through the eyes of children and the exquisite works of their adult teachers are the ingredients for **Artscape**, an exhibit which premiered last year in the Festival of the Home. Artscape will again present a gallery of work by children and their teachers and mentors from the Children's Study Home of Springfield.

"HomeSafe 1" will introduce innovative ideas for family safety in the home, with special emphasis toward children and seniors. The Home Builders will sponsor this booth as a public service in conjunction with the Safe Kids Coalition of Western Massachusetts. Both groups realize that keeping today's homes safe and easy to use for the very young and elderly is a concern for most families.

HOMEXPO 2000, the Western Massachusetts Home Show's electronics and home computing bazaar, will feature home office, hobby, and entertainment applications of current technology, as well as demonstrations and information on how technology is impacting the field of home heating, cooling, and ventilation.

Two exhibits in the Festival of the Home Building will offer opportunities to register for major prizes. The "Original" Western Massachusetts Home Show, in conjunction with WWLP TV-22 and 94.7 WMAS-FM, will sponsor the **HOME SHOW '99 Fabulous Furniture Giveaway**, a promotion to benefit the Children's Miracle Network at Baystate Medical Center.

A collection of fine furniture and appointments valued at \$15,000 will be won by a lucky recipient on the last day of the Home Show. Contest tickets will be sold by celebrity volunteers and others during **HOME SHOW '99** at the Fabulous Furniture Giveaway exhibit and at kiosks in the Better Living Center and Young Building.

Tickets are also available during business hours from WWLP TV-22, WMAS AM/FM, and the Home Builders Association of Western Massachusetts. The winner need not be present at the 5:00 p.m. drawing on March 28th.

The Home Builders Association will offer its 1999 *Consumers' Guide to the Home Building and Remodeling Industry* at the Association's booth in the Young Building. This free booklet is packed with helpful information and articles about planning, financing, building, and remodeling a home.

Included for reference is a list of the members of the Home Builders Association of Western Massachusetts.

General admission to **HOME SHOW '99** is \$7 for adults; children under 12 are admitted free. Visitors may use Dollar Off discount coupons, available in publications throughout the area (including *The Agawam Advertiser News*), in order to reduce their admission to \$6 on any day of the Home Show.

Hours for **HOME SHOW '99** are: Tuesday and Wednesday (March 23rd-24th), 4:00 to 9:30 p.m.; Thursday (March 25th), 2:00 to 9:30 p.m.; Friday (March 26th), 1:00 to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday (March 27th), 10:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; and Sunday (March 28th), 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Parking is plentiful and free.

For more information, call (413) 733-3126.

Cultural Council To Hold Community Input Mtg. In April

The Agawam Cultural Council will hold a Community Input meeting on Monday, April 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Agawam Public Library.

Townpeople are encouraged to attend to offer suggestions, comments, and other reactions to the various programs and grant awards of the Council.

Programs fund cultural activities to benefit all the citizens of Agawam. Community input is most important to provide the information the Council needs to make available these activities and others which residents would like to see presented.

The Council is also in need of members interested in the Cultural Council's programs and activities and this informational meeting would be helpful to those interested in joining the Council.

AGAWAM PUBLIC MARKET

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Center Cut Pork Roast	\$1.89 Lb.
Loin End Roast	\$1.29 Lb.
Country Style Ribs	\$1.39 Lb.
Boneless Roast (Cut From Rib & Loin End)	\$1.99 Lb.
Fresh Ground Pork	\$1.69 Lb.
Whole Pork Loins (Cut & Freezer Wrapped - No Extra Charge)	\$1.39 Lb.
Boneless Top Round Roast	\$1.99 Lb.
Boneless Top Round London Broil	\$2.49 Lb.
Top Round Stew Beef	\$2.69 Lb.
Top Round Cubed Steak	\$2.89 Lb.
Fresh Ground Round	
5 Lbs. Or More	\$2.49 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.99 Lb.
Boneless New York Strip Steak	\$5.99 Lb.
Fresh Australian Lamb Legs (Boneless - 4 1/2 Lb. Average Weight)	\$2.39 Lb.
Jordan's Skinless & Shankless Hams (Whole)	\$1.89 Lb.

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Hood 1% Low Fat Milk (Gallon)	\$2.19
Hood Half & Half (Quarts)	\$1.69
Hood 2% Low Fat Milk (Gallon)	\$2.39
Grade "A" Jumbo Eggs (Dozen)	99¢
Friendly Ice Cream (1/2 Gallon) 2 For	\$7.00

DELI

Land O' Lakes White American Cheese	\$2.99 Lb.
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Russer Cooked Salami	\$1.99 Lb.
Russer Honey Maple Ham	\$3.49 Lb.
Russer Low Salt Ham	\$3.49 Lb.
Citterio Morta Della With Pistachio	\$2.99 Lb.
Mother Goose Liverwurst	\$2.69 Lb.
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* * *

PRODUCE

Bananas	49¢ Lb.
Anjou Pears (Large Size)	89¢ Lb.
Red & Golden Delicious Apples	69¢ Lb.
Iceberg Lettuce (Hd.)	89¢
Extra Large Green Peppers	99¢ Lb.
Large Slicing Tomatoes	89¢ Lb.
Fresh Broccoli (Bunch)	99¢

SEAFOOD

Frozen Swordfish Steaks	\$2.99 Lb.
Frozen Crab Meat (11.3 Oz. Can)	\$4.99

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* * *

Easter Potted Plants Available March 26th

* * *

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CHRISTOPHER JABRY AND GINA MARQUISS

Gina M. Marquiss Engaged To Wed Christopher M. Jabry

Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Marquiss of 3E Mansion Woods Drive, Agawam, are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Gina M. Marquiss, to Christopher M. Jabry. Grandparents of Gina are Mrs. Marie Andruss and the late Mr. Robert Andruss of Agawam. Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Frank DeMaio of Agawam.

Christopher is the son of Irene M. Jabry of 142 Autumn Road, Agawam, and the late Richard M. Jabry.

The bride-to-be will be graduating in May from American International College with a bachelor's degree in nursing. She works in the Emergency Room at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Her fiancé was graduated from Westfield State College with a bachelor's degree in business. He is in management at Enterprise in Springfield, MA.

A September 18, 1999 wedding has been planned. Following a honeymoon to Hawaii, they will reside in Agawam.

Remember, our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays...

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Ziti And Meatball Dinner To Benefit Baby Valerie Marsh

On Saturday, April 17th, a ziti and meatball dinner will be held at the Polish American Club, 139 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, for the benefit of Valerie Marsh. This event will run from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m.

Val is a 16 month-old baby girl who was born with SVT — supra ventricular tachycardia. She was recently diagnosed with having two holes in her heart, which is going to need immediate open heart surgery.

This is all complicated by intestinal and lung problems. Val also has atopic eczema/dermatitis, and she has many allergies. She constantly needs to be seen by a team of doctors at Boston Children's Hospital.

The monies contributed through this benefit will be used for Val's continuous care at Boston Children's Hospital and all of her special needs.

Tickets for the dinner (which will also feature a D.J. and raffles) are \$10. For tickets and information, call Brenda, 789-0625, or Lisa, 789-7546. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Donations may also be made to baby Val in care of the "Baby Valerie Marsh Benefit" at Woronoco Savings Bank, P.O. Box 266, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

AHS's Class Of 1959 Slates Organizational Mtg. For March 24th

Can you believe 40 years have gone by since we walked the halls of Agawam High? All Agawam High School Class of 1959 classmates who wish to join the class reunion committee are invited to join in on an organizational meeting to be held at Alexander's, North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills on Wednesday evening, March 24th at 7:00 p.m.

See you there!

Remember, our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon!

Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, March 22nd: Stuffed cabbage, mashed potatoes, corn, pumpernickel bread, bananas.

Tuesday, March 23rd: New dish — turkey casserole, French green beans, stuffing, biscuit, jello with fruit.

Wednesday, March 24th: Beef stew, potatoes, onions, carrots, celery and peas, salad, Vienna bread, brownie.

Thursday, March 25th: Sweet and sour ribs, Oriental rice, mixed vegetables, whole wheat bread, pears.

Friday, March 26th: Baked fish, beans, cole slaw, rye bread, tapioca pudding.

(Menu subject to change without notice.)

Polish Genealogical Society To Hold Mtg. At Agawam Senior Ctr.

On Friday, March 26th at 6:30 p.m., the Polish Genealogical Society (PGS) of Massachusetts will hold a public meeting at the Agawam Senior Center in Meadowbrook Manor on Wright St. (west of Main St./Route 159), Agawam.

Peter and Donna Kenny will describe their recent trip to Lithuania to locate relatives. Talk will be illustrated with map and short video of photos from the trip with music and documentary. Question and answer period will follow.

New genealogical acquisitions will be on display and the meeting is open to all. Admission is free, so bring a friend.

Any questions? Contact Janice Bonk, secretary, at (413) 786-4297 or John Skibiski, president, at (413) 586-1827.

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“When Irish Eyes Are...”



WEARING A BIT O' THE GREEN, Linda “The Leprechaun” King recently entertained residents of Heritage Hall’s West Building with some Irish songs. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

For photo coverage in The AAN, call photographer Jack Devine at 789-0053; however, please give him at least 48 hours’ notice...

HOME SHOW ‘99

The “Original” Western Massachusetts Home Show

The Biggest Home Show in New England
Just Got Better... For the 46th year!

MARCH 23-28, 1999

At the Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield

HOME...NEIGHBORHOOD...COMMUNITY

Whether you seek to find the perfect elements of your dream house, or are looking to see what the future will look like in your town, begin your search at HOME SHOW ‘99, sponsored by the Home Builders Association of Western Massachusetts, the voice of the building industry in Western Massachusetts.

Rely on the “Original” Western Massachusetts Home Show to meet your needs for home, yard and garden this Spring and throughout the year. More than 400 exhibitors from New England and throughout the country will showcase the best and the latest to make your house a dream home.

This year’s “Rooms to Come Home To” display will feature a look to the rustic, inside and out; sponsored by Kitchens by Curio, Janet Lyons Interiors and Water & Landscape Design.

Be sure to enter to win our “Take Your Home on the Road Show” Grand Door Prize. Enjoy the luxury of a 30’ Motor Home and a week at Disney World and the Orlando area. Sponsored by Longview R.V. & Carroll Travel.

Tour the “Festival of the Home” Building for information, ideas, and demonstrations for your home and how to use it:

HOME SHOW KITCHEN: Join guest chefs from the finest restaurants in Western Massachusetts and enter to win dinners for two.

HOME-SAFE-1: Every parent should visit this exhibit to learn how to make their home safe for their children.

INTERIOR DESIGN SHOWCASE: Quality furnishings, exquisite fabrics and decorated rooms highlight this display.

HOMEXPO 2000: Explore a variety of high tech home systems, including computers, the Internet and HVAC systems.

SALUTE TO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: Learn about the vocational school challenge, and see for yourself what the students can do.

Special Discount For Seniors Now Three Days!

Seniors aged 60 and over admitted for \$4.00, \$3.00 with discount coupon below on Tuesday through Thursday, March 23-25 only!



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Discount Coupon
MARCH 23-28, 1999

Sponsored by
The Home Builders Association of Western Massachusetts

SHOW HOURS

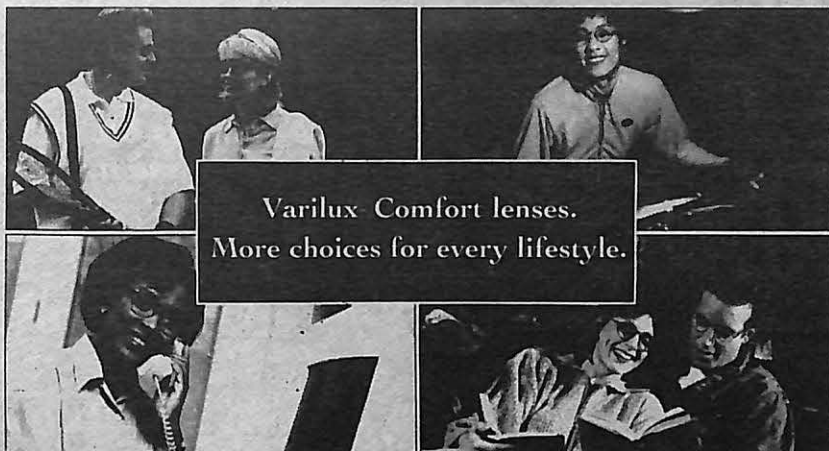
Tues.-Wed. March 23-24	4-9:30pm
Thurs. March 25	2-9:30pm
Fri. March 26	1-9:30pm
Sat. March 27	10am-9:30pm
Sun. March 28	11am-6pm

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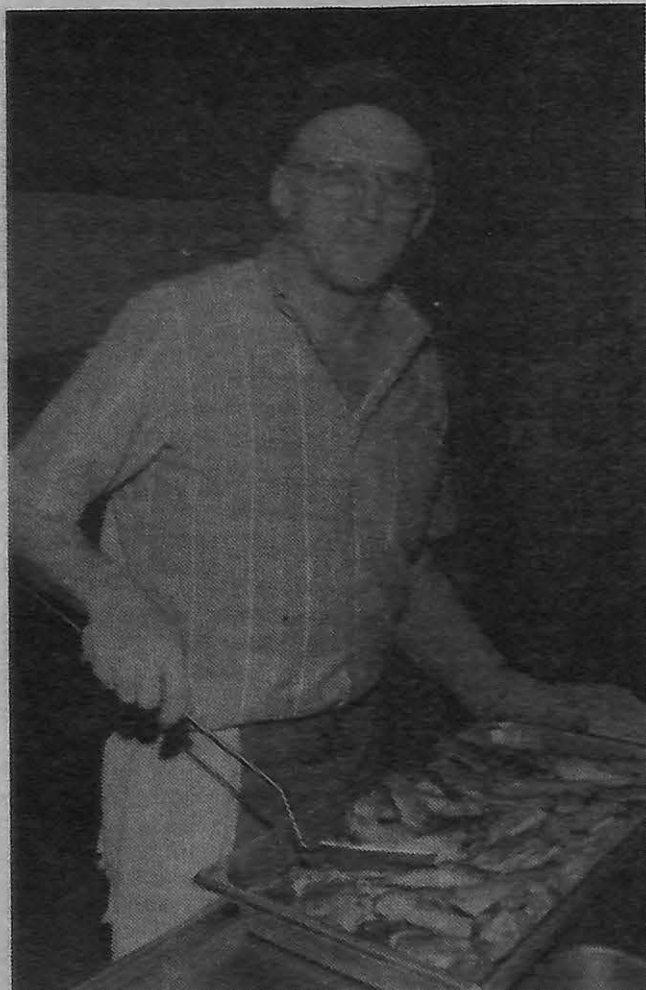
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Church News

Valley Comm. Church's Chicken Supper



THE LATEST CHICKEN SUPPER at Valley Community Church in Feeding Hills was held on Saturday, March 13th. Among those who helped out at the supper were "chickenmeister" Jeff Hill (left photo); Sue Pearsons, Lois Granger, and Evelyn Vincelette at the dessert table (center photo); and the church's new pastor, Rev. Robert Loesch (right photo), who dished out salad with a smile. Advertiser News

photos by Jack Devine.

From The Agawam United Methodist Church...

We've Entered The Season Of Hope

Once again, we enter the season of hope. To step deep into a catacomb is indeed a frightening experience. However, it is always a challenging thought to embrace when one imagines that he/she will never again be the same after passing through.

The catacomb experience for John was his being exiled on the island of Patmos. He was separated from those with whom he had been accustomed and loved. We will never be able to describe accurately the gruesomeness of all his experiences, but we are surely moved by the rapturous burst of joy which seems to have come towards the end, when he said, "I SAW A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH." In this heaven and earth, people live as children of the one God.

The story of resurrection always follows one of horror. How else will one ever appreciate the freedom of being "free at last"? So those who saw Jesus bear the cross, suffer, and die the death of a criminal, know the horror, shame, and degradation of human intolerance and wickedness.

But through it all, they are brought into contact

with the most breathtaking, striking, and the most positive episode of all human history. The story of the resurrection reminds us, tells us, and announces with utmost clarity that at the end of the dark tunnels in the human experience, there is the light created by the power of God.

This light brightens and changes sorrow to joy; sadness to laughter and hope; and invigorates the human spirit by equipping it with courage and fortitude for its missionary task of creating all things new.

The Agawam United Methodist Church once more invites all of those who are seeking a new fellowship and a radical understanding of the teachings from the incidents of Christ's death and resurrection.

Please join us for worship on Sundays at 9:30 a.m., especially our special services on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday (at sunrise and at 9:30 a.m.).

The Church also welcomes you on Holy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. (with communion).

Baked Chicken Dinner At Agawam Congregational

The Agawam Congregational Church will be holding a Baked Chicken Dinner on Saturday, March 27th, at 5:30 p.m.

The cost is \$7 for adults, and \$4 for children.

The dinner will be held at the church, located at 745 Main Street. Reservations are recommended, but a few walk-ins will be accepted.

Reservations can be made by calling Anne Hamel at 786-2908 before 12:00 noon on Friday, March 26th.

Lordy, Lordy Look Who's Forty!



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Feeding Hills
786-7102**

Church News - continued...

St. John's Parish News And Notes

OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED

The following children were welcomed into our community via Baptism last month:

Collette Diane Groux, child of Arthur and Carolyn; **Joseph Tomas Sutton**, child of Marie Sutton; and **Jessica Caron Vaughn**, child of William and Renee.

PARENTS' MEETING FOR FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

On March 20th at 9:00 a.m., there will be a parents' meeting regarding the First Communion class.

Both parents are invited, but only one need attend. If you have any questions, call Sr. Fran Gloster at 786-8105.

PARISH BEREAVEMENT GROUP

The Parish Bereavement Group meets every second and fourth Wednesday of the month in the Foyer of the Parish Center from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Call Sr. Fran White at 786-4499 for more information.

USED EYEGLASSES

The Franciscan Sisters are looking for eyeglasses for their Missions in Bolivia. We will have a container at the Main Street entrance to St. John's during March for any glasses "too good to throw away."

MILLENNIUM

We are still open to new ideas on how best to plan for our parish celebration of the millennium and the Jubilee Year.

A partial list of events planned includes Mission Week, Senior Days, Youth Days, Community Banner, Parishioner Quilt, Lecture Series, Lenten Suppers, and various religious/social events.

We encourage all of our parishioners to offer their abilities and talents to this once-in-a-lifetime year. We look forward to meeting you.

AGAWAM CATHOLIC SINGLES CLUB

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Anyone interested in joining should call Frank, 789-2764, or Kay B., 786-8442.

COURSE - "MINISTERING TODAY"

The Diocese offers education, preparation, and training programs leading to certification in Pastoral Ministry.

A prerequisite course, "Ministering Today," will be offered on March 24th from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Bishop Marshall Center at the Cathedral. Forms are at the Rectory Office.

Call for more information at 452-0658.

ST. JOHN'S OVER-60 CLUB

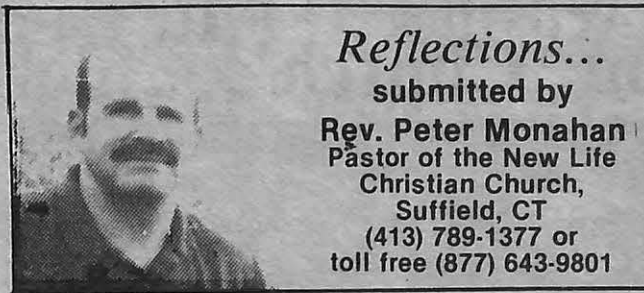
* **Boston Trolley Trip** on Thursday, May 6th. Feel the drama of the Revolution in America. Visit Quincy Market, lunch at the Marriott Long Wharf. Price: \$52. For reservations, call Lil, 786-9586, or Barbara, 569-9830.

* **Saratoga Performing Arts** will be presenting "Swan Lake," a full-length ballet. The Club has tickets reserved for the matinee on July 8th, and this will include a visit to the National Museum of Dance and lunch at Hall of Springs. Make reservations early. Cost: \$57.00.

SUNDAY TO SUNDAY

Each Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. during Lent, a video presentation of next Sunday's Scriptures will be shown in the Parish Center.

This video will then be repeated each Friday morning in the Parish Center after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.



Reflections...

submitted by

Rev. Peter Monahan
Pastor of the New Life
Christian Church,
Suffield, CT
(413) 789-1377 or
toll free (877) 643-9801

The Lord Is My Shepherd, I Shall Not Want

King David, one of Israel's most famous kings and probably its best, came from very humble origins. When the prophet Samuel was sent by God to anoint a new king, he called upon a man named Jesse. Jesse introduced Samuel to his sons, except for David. David was left out in the fields, tending the sheep.

It appears that David was considered insignificant to almost everybody, with the exception of the One who really matters. David was God's choice to be king.

David did not forget his humble beginnings. Some years into his administration, David wrote what has come to be among the most well-known and best-loved psalms, the 23rd Psalm. With a few words, David speaks volumes of truth which can apply to our lives today.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff — they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

In the 23rd Psalm, David describes God as a shepherd. Many years later, Jesus would say of Himself, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and My own know Me."

In David's day, a good shepherd knew all his sheep well. Often, he named each one. They

weren't just livestock to be managed; they were animals under his care.

Even though there are almost six-billion people on the earth, God knows each of us by name. He knows all about us. We are not crowds to be controlled; we are individuals He cares about.

Jesus also said, "I lay down My life for the sheep." God, our shepherd, knows and cares about us.

Shepherds provide food for their flock. **He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters.** Jesus said, "Do not worry, saying 'What shall we eat' or 'What shall we drink?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you as well." God wants to be our provider.

Shepherds protect their sheep. David recounted how, when his sheep were attacked once by a bear and another time by a lion, he had defended his sheep, killing both predators.

Psalm 91 says, **For He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you will find refuge. For He will command His angels concerning you, to guard you in all your ways.** God wants to be our protector.

Your rod and staff — they comfort me. The shepherd's tools were not employed as weapons against the sheep, but rather, as prods to gently guide the sheep. **They comfort me**, not because I get hit but because I know that He who is Wisdom itself will guide me if I really want Him to.

If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. But ask in faith, never doubting; for the doubter, being double minded, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord. God wants to lead us in right paths for His name's sake. God wants us to be our guide.

In good times and bad, David was aware of and responsive to God's presence and His love. We can be, too. Then we also could say along with David, **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

First Baptist To Celebrate Grotonwood Day

First Baptist Church will celebrate Grotonwood Day this Sunday by hosting the Western Mass. Mobile Grotonwood extravaganza.

Mike Socia, Director of Camping for The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts, will speak at the morning worship service at 9:30 a.m. The afternoon's events will run from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

At 7:00 p.m., the Lenten series "The Hurried Family" continues in Davis Hall.

On Friday evening, March 26th, at 7:30 p.m., our youth and their families will be attending a special Christian Family Falcons Night at the Springfield Civic Center. Contact the youth leaders for ticket information.

Saturday, March 27th will be our annual Family Night Celebration. A pot luck supper will be held at 6:00 p.m. followed by an evening of fun with entertainment by church members. Sign-up now to attend this special event!!!

Coming up this week:

Tuesday, March 23rd: 10:00 a.m., Searchlighters Bible Study, home of Claire Crouss; 7:00 p.m., Junior Youth Group.

Wednesday, March 24th: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Trading Post open; 7:30 p.m., "Six Hours One Friday" Lenten study, Lockhart Parlor.

Thursday, March 25th: 10:00 a.m., Bell Ringers Rehearsal; 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal.

Friday, March 26th: 7:30 p.m., Christian Family Falcons Night.

Saturday, March 27th: 6:00 p.m., Family Night Celebration.

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Church News - continued...**Events And Activities At F.H. Congregational**

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills.

Sunday worship hour begins at 10:00 a.m. and will include the One Great Hour of Sharing Collection. The Lector will be Jackie Gilmartin. The lectionary readings for March 21st, the fifth Sunday in Lent, will be Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45.

Rev. Donaldson's sermon title is "Where There's Hope..." Coffee Hour will be hosted by Linda Edelman. Children are invited to attend worship with their parents, leaving at a designated time for Sunday School; nursery care will be provided for the very young.

The Agawam Parish Association will hold a breakfast meeting at this church on Sunday, March 20th at 8:30 a.m. This group is made up of clergy and lay members from different churches in Agawam. Anyone interested in joining may attend this meeting, or call Rev. Rob Donaldson at 786-5061 for more information.

The Hampden Association and Faith United Church of Springfield invite church members and friends to an Ecclesiastical Council and Installation for the Rev. Candice M. Ashenden on Sunday,

Weekly Calendar From Ag. Congregational

This Sunday, March 21st, is the Fifth Sunday in Lent.

At Agawam Congregational Church, located at 745 Main Street, Agawam, Rev. Fuller's Sermon will be, "Power Beyond Death," taken from Text: John 11:1-45. His Children's Message will be, "Breath of Life," taken from Text: Ezekiel 37:1-14.

Worship Service begins at 10:30 a.m., with Church School for Crib Room through the sixth grade taking place during the service. Church School for grades seven through 12 will meet at 9:00 a.m. (They will have Communion during their Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.)

This is also Youth Sunday. The Junior High youth of the church will be leading and participating in the Worship Service.

During this week's service, two new members will join our church family; they are Earl & Shirley Bradley.

Join us following the Worship Service for a *Progressive Coffee Hour in the form of a Mission Fair*. Displays and speakers will be set up throughout the main level of the church. Want to learn about gardening, police work, organ building, the Loaves & Fishes Program, the Open Pantry, and more? Join us for this special Coffee Hour.

This Friday night, March 19th, there will be a Video Night for the kindergarten through fourth-grade Youth Groups beginning at 6:00 p.m.

This will be held in the Youth Room.

Men's Prayer Time is held weekly on Tuesdays at 7:45 a.m. This half-hour includes a devotional reading, prayer, and a time of refreshments and fellowships.

All are welcome to this very special time. For more information, contact Rev. Fuller at 786-7111.

A Falcons Hockey Night for all ages will be held on Friday, March 26th. We will leave the church parking lot at 6:15 p.m.

Interested? Call the church office for more information at 786-7111.

Mark your calendars today! A Baked Chicken Supper will be held on Saturday, March 27th, at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$7 for adults, and \$4 for children under 12.

Call the church office at 786-7111 for your reservations.

The Adult Bible Discussion Group will meet each first and third Wednesday of the month at 7:45 p.m., following the 7:00 p.m. Midweek Service. The next Discussion Group will meet on April 7th.

All are invited to attend this informal, non-threatening, fun group. For more information, please call the church office at 786-7111.

Maundy Thursday and Confirmation Service will be Thursday, April 1st, at 7:00 p.m.

Join us to welcome our newest members of our church family as they are confirmed: Taryn Albano, Danya Decoteau, Mike Follis, Sarah Gates, Ryan Sullivan, Adam Tapply, Amiee Young, and Lucy Young.

Join us with our neighbors across the street, the First Baptist Church of Agawam, for the Good Friday Service, April 2nd, at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Service Schedule: 6:30 a.m. (Sunrise at the Springfield Turnverein), 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.

March 21st at 52 Sumner Avenue in Springfield. The Ecclesiastical Council will convene at 3:00 p.m. with the Service of Installation following at 4:00 p.m.

From the West Springfield/Agawam Open Pantry: Candy needs candy! The Pantry is building 400 Easter baskets to distribute to people who come through the doors during Holy Week. They will also host a family Easter Party on April 3rd for residents of the Merrick neighborhood. They need Easter candy, especially chocolate, to fill the baskets and to use for the party. Donations can be brought to 1023 Main Street in West Springfield.

Church members are asked to support the Council of Churches with their special offering for the benefit of the many victims of the Jahn Foundry tragedy and their families. The Council has joined with the Red Cross and Community United

Way to oversee the equitable distribution of the funds. Please send your contribution to Fleet Bank, 1 Monarch Place, MAS PM01, Springfield, MA 01144.

On the calendar:

Friday, March 19th: 6:00 p.m., Hall in use (Marsh); 7:00 p.m., Finance Committee

Saturday, March 20th: 8:30 a.m., Agawam Parish Association

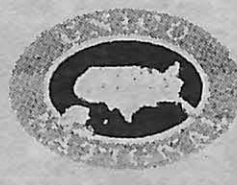
Sunday, March 21st: 10:00 a.m., One Great Hour of Sharing Collection; Children's Choir practice after worship; 1:00 p.m., Blue and Gold Banquet; 7:00 p.m., Play practice

Monday, March 22nd: 4:00 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Cub Scouts

Tuesday, March 23rd: 7:00 p.m., AA

Wednesday, March 24th: 4:00 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts; 7:00 p.m., Choir

Thursday, March 25th: 7:00 p.m., AA

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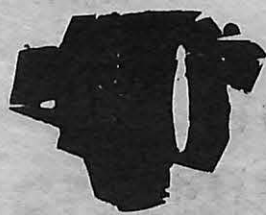


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Spotlight On Business

Fitness First Raises \$23,000 For Children's Miracle Network

This year marked the 13th Annual Children's Miracle Network weekend (March 6th-7th) at Fitness First. For the past 13 years, Kurt and Paul Welker, owners of Fitness First, have asked their staff to set a goal on how much money they plan to raise.

"It all began with a small amount, like \$5,000, and then every year it has increased," said Paula Welker. "This year, we gave ourselves a goal of \$22,000, which was \$2,000 more than we raised last year. We had our reservations, but with everyone helping out we knew it was a definite possibility."

And so it was. Thanks to generous pledges, corporate sponsorship, donated raffle prizes, and racquetball fees, the club easily reached and exceeded its goal this year.

Most of the money came from the Group Exercise portion of the weekend. On Saturday, March 6th, the club held a three-hour marathon of STEP, BodyPUMP, hi/lo aerobics, and the latest craze, kickboxing.

Our participant, in particular — Miss Cindi Berkowitz — represented her family's pledge collection of more than \$8,000! The Group Exercise class participants alone brought in over \$16,000 in pledge money.

Also held over the weekend were a two-day racquetball tournament; a four-hour Spinning marathon; a children's Spin class; the Fitness Center cardio challenge; and the senior Young At Heart class.

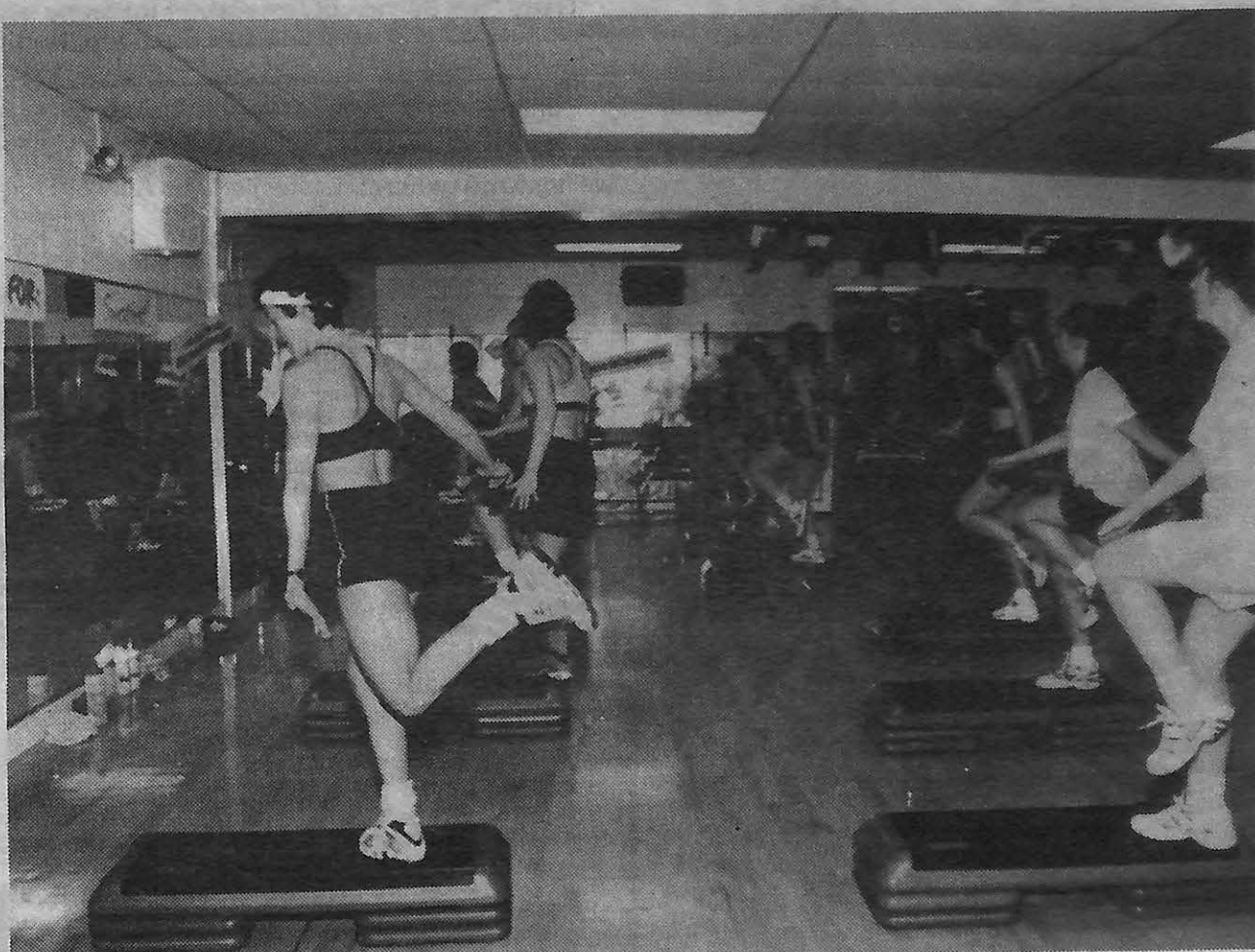
On Saturday night, Fitness First held the annual banquet (catered by Baystate Medical Center) for all the participants. Following the banquet, the results of the club's Silent Auction were announced and a giant raffle was held.

Many local businesses helped to contribute to the success of the auction, raffle, and door prizes. Fitness First would like to take this time to sincerely thank all the many individuals and businesses who contributed to the success of this year's campaign.

Thank you to the following local businesses:

Agawam Spirit Shoppe; Advanced Print & Copy; Aqua Dreams; Axler's Bike Corner; The Bag Man; The Bank Works; Berkshire Brewing Co.; Blimpie's; Boston Billiard Club; Bolducs; Boston Sea Foods; Chicopee Country Club; Christo's Restaurant.

Choice Health Food; Country Cuts; Country Flowers; Compact Disc Productions; Ciocca Construction; Champions Bar; Chi Chi's; Tim Daggett Gymnastics; Designer's Edge; Ensign Coopers;



DURING FITNESS FIRST'S 13th Annual Children's Miracle Network weekend, members of the Feeding Hills fitness club were more than willing to work up a good sweat for a worthwhile cause. (See related photos on Page 19.) Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Eastern Snacks; E.B.'s Chicken; Engraver's Touch; Fini's Plant Farm; Flowers Flowers.

Figaro's; FL Roberts; Games & Lanes; Gino's Package Store; Greenough Paper Co.; The Growth Co.; The Hampton Inn; Hair & Co.; Hair Impressions; Hampden House Cafe; Hu Ke Lau; Kakely & Sons True Value; Kiddlywinks; Kinney Photo; Kitchens of Distinction.

King Brothers Decorating Center; King Ward Coach Lines; Langonet; John Lazazzara/Hershey; Lego; Liquors 76; Longo Carpet Cleaning; Lumber Center; Mark Oil; Media City; Milton Bradley; Mike Mason Massage; Nevada Bob's; New England Health & Racquet; Oak Ridge Country Club; Olym-

pic Fasteners; Old Center Barber Shop; Outback Steakhouse; Party Plus Taylor Rental; Performance Music; Peter Pan; Radio Shack; Riverside Park.

Savage Arms; Southwick Florist; Showcase Cinemas; Scott Skolnick, Atty. At Law; Salmon Brook Restaurant; 60-Minute Photo; Southwoods; Storowton Tavern; Springfield Falcons; Stop & Shop; Tolly's Pizza; Town & Country Liquor Store; UBU; United Paper Box Co.; Visual Changes Salon; Williams Distributing; WAQY; Walnut St. Cleaners; WPKX; and Wildness Experiences Unlimited.

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Our Daily Bread

READ:
1 Timothy 1:12-17

This is a faithful saying... that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.
—1 Timothy 1:15

When the great Puritan preacher Thomas Hooker (1586-1647) was on his deathbed, a friend tried to console him by saying, "Brother Hooker, you are going to receive your reward." "No, no!" he breathed. "I go to receive mercy!"

In sharp contrast, A. W. Tozer recalled the prayer of a man who had the idea that he could earn heaven as a reward for trying to keep the Ten Commandments. It went something like this: "Now, God, I admit I have not kept number 1 and number 3 and number 7 and number 9. But remember, Father, that I have kept all the others."

How foolish! This man failed to see that if he had broken one commandment, he was guilty of breaking them all (Jas. 2:10). His works were earning him condemnation, not salvation.

As the apostle Paul reviewed his 30-plus years of sacrificial service, he saw himself as the "chief" of sinners and totally dependent on God's mercy. Although he undoubtedly anticipated the rewards he would receive, he gloried only in the cross (Gal. 6:14). There Jesus paid the price for sin so that everyone who trusts in Him will receive mercy.

The wonder of God's mercy and grace! Someday I will "go to receive mercy." I hope you will too. —HVL

'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me;
Amazing love! How can it be

That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me. —Wesley

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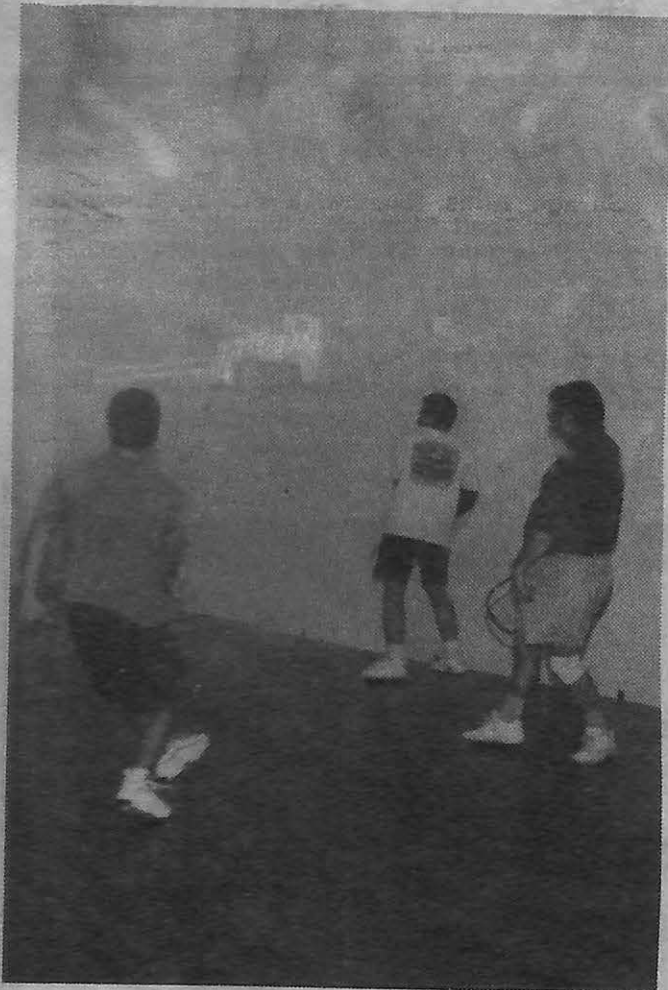
656 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills
789-2106

Spotlight On Business - continued...

Thanks, Fitness First!



IN PHOTO ABOVE: Beth Muller and Fitness First owner Kurt Welker were pleased with the \$23,000 that the fitness club raised this year during the Children's Miracle Network weekend. IN PHOTO BELOW: A two-day racquetball tournament was just one of the activities that took place during the fundraising weekend at Fitness First. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



Garry Santaniello Is A Certified Buyer Rep. For Landry, Lyons, Stearns & Yerrall

Garry Santaniello was recently certified by the Real Estate Training Institute of Charlotte, North Carolina, as a CBR® Certified Buyer Representative.

Santaniello is a sales associate with Landry, Lyons, Stearns & Yerrall/Better Homes and Gardens, and is now trained in the representation of home purchasers.

Buyer representation is an emerging national trend in real estate, and Santaniello has proven his professionalism by obtaining this certification.

For further information, contact Garry Santaniello at Landry, Lyons, Stearns & Yerrall/Better Homes and Gardens, 789-4915.

Our weekly "Spotlight On Business" is just one more reason why you turn our pages ... AAN!!!

* * * * *

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Spotlight On Business - continued...



Travel Talk...

by Lori Keeley, CTC
Travel Connections, LTD
10 Chestnut Street
West Spfld., MA 01089
(413) 732-1313

Bermuda...

I love this time of year because I know the weather in Bermuda is beautiful. Located approximately 600 miles off the coast of North Carolina, Bermuda is fairly mild year-round.

This island is beautiful, clean, and only about a 2½-hour flight from Hartford. There are so many hotels to choose from; depending on your preference, you can stay in a B and B, cottage, small downtown hotel, golf resort, or large resort.

Many of the hotels located at the tip of Bermuda are very quiet and offer endless hours of relaxing. They really do have pink sand beaches in Bermuda.

One of my favorite ways to get to Bermuda is by cruise ship. New York and Boston both offer seven-night transatlantic cruises to Bermuda starting in April and operating until late fall. You get the best of both worlds with a Bermuda cruise, non-stop entertainment, all your meals, great accommodations, and the convenience of cruising around the islands without repacking.

Bermuda is still one of the few islands that still have tight control over such things as billboards, neon lights, fast-food places, and guns. You can't rent cars in Bermuda, so you get around by using taxis, ferries, the public bus system, mopeds, and bikes.

Bermuda has more golf courses than any other country in the world. There are shopping opportunities galore in Hamilton, and the best buys are English-based goods such as china, linens, crafts, and wool.

For more information on Bermuda, call our office.

Are you looking for somewhere to go this coming summer? Then be sure to check out Lori Keeley's column, "Travel Talk..." for some great vacation ideas!

* * * * *

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CENTURY 21 Newschu Joins Comm. Investment Network

CENTURY 21 Newschu Real Estate, Inc. of Agawam has joined the Commercial Investment Network.

The Commercial Investment Network (CIN), a division of CENTURY 21, is a national network of CENTURY 21 offices specializing in the sale, leasing, and marketing of commercial investment properties. This includes business opportunities, land for development, and farms and ranches. The network currently has approximately 300 offices with over 800 members.

"Being a participating CIN office, we can now offer national referrals to those customers who wish to make a commercial property investment, whether they wish to invest in a vineyard in New York State or in an apartment complex in Chicago," stated John Schuler, Broker/Owner of CENTURY 21 Newschu Real Estate, Inc.

He added, "Through our on-line services and teleconferences, we can now find the properties, be they across town or across the country, which our customers desire."

The average list price of a commercial property handled through a CIN broker falls between \$500,000 and \$2 million, according to Jim Nickerson, Director of Commercial Investment training for CIN.

Due to the delicate nature of the business, he stresses that only top agents and brokers become CIN members. Membership is extended to CENTURY 21 Brokers who achieve a minimum of five percent of their sales through commercial investments.

CENTURY 21 Real Estate Corporation, a subsidiary of Cendant Corporation (NYSE: CD), is the largest real estate organization in the world with more than 6,300 independently owned and operated franchised brokerage offices in more than 20 countries and territories.

CENTURY 21 Newschu Welcomes New Sales Associates

CENTURY 21 Newschu Real Estate, Inc. is pleased to announce that Dia Thao, Maureen Akers, Steve Martin, and Steven White have joined its firm as sales associates. Dia, Maureen, and Steve Martin will specialize in residential sales in the greater Springfield area. Steven White will specialize in commercial sales and leasing.

"We are thrilled to have these agents join our team," said John Schuler, Broker/Owner. "It's an exciting time to be with the CENTURY 21 System as we continue to increase our presence in the Pioneer Valley."

All four associates recently completed the CENTURY 21 Real Estate Licensing School and in-house training program. "Our in-house training program focuses on quality service, fulfilling our customers' and clients' wants and needs to their satisfaction by understanding and utilizing all the resources available to us," said Schuler.

Jane David, Sales Manager, added, "We believe training supports growth and professional excellence in the real estate industry. Performance-based training is necessary to assure that CENTURY 21 associates maintain their competitive edge and offer the best service possible to their clients."

Century 21 Real Estate Corporation is the franchisor of the world's largest real estate brokerage system, with more than 6,300 independently owned and operated franchised broker offices in more than 20 countries and territories worldwide.

Century 21 Real Estate Corporation is a subsidiary of Cendant Corporation (NYSE: CD).

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Spotlight On Business - continued...

COMMON SENSE
with
Raymond Rose
THE PIONEER GROUP

What Makes Us Happy???

In my opinion, many of the most popular ideas about what makes people happy are wrong. I believe that external circumstances have very little effect on one's psychological well-being ... and that there are four inner traits that foster happiness.

SELF-ESTEEM

Happy people like themselves ... People who agree with such statements as *I'm a lot of fun to be with* and *I have good ideas* seem to suffer less from sickness ... seem to be more resistant to outside pressures ... and are more persistent at difficult tasks.

Unhappy people blame the outside world for their depression ... they have not learned that they can control their own lives.

PERSONAL CONTROL

My belief is "what happens to me is my own doing" ... If you agree with my statement, typically you will cope much better with all levels of stress ... and you will live much happier than those who lack that sense of personal control.

Effective time management is one important way to gain a sense of control ... People who cannot plan their time and fill it purposely are left feeling empty ... those who are happy tend to be punctual and efficient. **USE YOUR TO DO LIST ... AND SET YOUR PRIORITIES!**

Reach your goals more easily ... by breaking down big tasks into manageable daily objectives. As each mini-deadline is met, you will sense the feeling of achievement and personal control.

OPTIMISM

Optimistic people are not only happier, they are healthier ... they suffer less from illness ... and recover better/easier when they are sick.

Those who think in positive terms get positive results ... You must keep that positive mental attitude to achieve maximum results.

Though don't be unrealistic ... If your accomplishments don't reach your unrealistic goals, you will be shattered by disappointment. You must have a clear understanding about the things that you can control in life ... and those things that you can't control.

SOCIALIZING

People with outgoing personalities ... tend to be happier and more satisfied than introverts.

Extroverts are cheerful ... and high-spirited people who like themselves. They are confident that others will like them. Their friendliness makes it easier for them to find friends, jobs, etc.

CAN YOU MAKE YOURSELF HAPPIER?

We all have the power to improve our future happiness by the way that we act now ... Our actions leave a residue within us, so by acting in the way that happy people act, it is possible to make ourselves into happier people.

If you begin acting ... in a way that shows a level of self-esteem, personal control, optimism, and sociability, you will end up developing those traits. Believe me, it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy!

The easiest way to become a happy person ... is simply to act like one!

Ray Rose's "Common Sense" is a regular feature of The AAN...
* * *

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**Feeding Hills
Congregational Church**

Marianne Irwin Is Asst. Manager Of S&Y's Westfield Office

Charles E. Reiter, President of Landry, Lyons, Stearns & Yerrall/Better Homes and Gardens, is pleased to announce the appointment of Marianne Irwin as Assistant Manager of the firm's Westfield sales office.

Marianne joined the firm in 1989 and holds the RMM (Residential Marketing Master) and CBR (Certified Buyer Representative) designations. She has also been a consistent multi-million dollar producer and was the firm's Rookie of the Year in 1990 as well as the Top Selling Agent in the Westfield office in 1992.

Marianne is a graduate of Westfield High School and resides with her family in Westfield.

Landry, Lyons, Stearns & Yerrall/Better Homes and Gardens is the largest real estate company in the Greater Springfield area with 240 Sales Associates in 14 offices located in Chicopee, Feeding Hills, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Palmer, Sixteen Acres, South Hadley, Springfield, West Springfield, Westfield, and Wilbraham.

They are a division of Carlson/Better Homes and Gardens and are owned by GMAC Home Services.



MARIANNE IRWIN

For copies of his photos in this edition, call AAN photographer Jack Devine at 789-0053.

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Spotlight On Business - continued...

Legal
Memo

by
Alan L. Ferrigno, Esq.
546 Springfield St., F.H.
(413) 786-9454



TORT

Personal Injury - Dogbite - "Keeper"

Where a plaintiff dogbite victim introduced evidence showing only (1) that she was bitten by a dog which was being walked on a leash by a defendant and (2) that the dog in question had, on two prior occasions, stayed in a truck in the driveway of the just-mentioned defendant and his codefendant father, a judge erred in granting a damage judgement to the plaintiff under G.L.c. 140, sect. 155, as the plaintiff did not prove that either defendant was the dog's "owner" or "keeper."

Analysis

"G.L.c. 140, sect. 155, imposes strict liability on the 'owner or keeper' of a dog which causes damage to a person's body or property ... The record in this case contains no evidence that would warrant a finding that the defendants are owners. It is estimable, therefore, to infer that the trial judge's finding of liability is based on a determination that the defendants were 'keepers' of the dog. The defendants argued that, as a matter of law, the evidence does not support such a finding. The Appeals Courts said:

"Whether someone is a keeper of a dog is a question of fact ... 'It is difficult, of course, to frame a universal definition of keepership, but a 'harboring with an assumption of custody, management and control of the dog' seems intrinsic to it.'"

"The report of the evidence in the case at bar contain only two facts: 1. That the dog had stayed in a truck in the driveway of the home of the defendants on two occasions. 2. One one date while the defendant was walking the dog on a leash, it bit the plaintiff in the leg. These facts, whether taken separately or together, do not support a finding that the defendants were keeps of the dog, the Court ruled.

"Concerning the two occasions on which the day stayed in a truck in the defendant's driveway (assuming, arguendo, that the use of the word 'home' in the record means that the property containing the driveway was owned by the defendants), is markedly meager and contains no context, the Court ruled.

"In an attempt to determine whether these facts constitute 'harboring with an assumption of custody, management, and control' attributable to the defendants, there is nothing with which to flesh out the evidentiary skeleton, the Court confirmed. The Appeals Court has no background with which to determine who owned the truck, how long the dog was in the truck, the reason the dog was there, whether it was there with the knowledge and acquiescence of the defendants, if the defendants were 'keeping' the dog, and when these occasions happened in relation to the biting.

"This evidence does not, as a matter of law, support a finding that the defendants were keepers of the dog."

Attorney Alan L. Ferrigno maintains an office at 546 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Massachusetts. If you have a legal question, Attorney Ferrigno will attempt to address the same in this column. Please send any questions to the address listed above.

Timely Tips On
How To Manage
Your Finances

by **Sue N. Alvanos**
Personal Financial Advisor
American Express
534-3883.

Staying Active In Your Golden Years

"If you want to know your future, look at what you are doing in this moment." - Tibetan wisdom.

Americans over age 65 outnumber teenagers today. Growing older and living longer does have its advantages. There is time to pursue personal interests, opportunities to learn new things, and the wisdom of a lifetime that teenagers have yet to discover.

Former president Jimmy Carter wrote about the challenges of maintaining an active life after age 65 in his new book "Virtues of Aging." This time of life has become such a popular topic that demographers have begun referring to it as the "third age" of life.

If you want more out of life, start by building on your personal interests, skills, education, and accomplishments. If it's dear to your heart, you probably will enjoy doing it in your 80's.

Here are seven ideas that can enliven your life:

1. **Use computers** — Don't let technophobia deter you. Many community education offerings include computer classes. The Internet can bring you a world of new ideas, and e-mail keeps you in touch with family and friends.

2. **Learn more about money** — Join or start an investment club to connect you with friends and with the financial markets. But, be patient. It typically takes a club over a year to show profits, so cultivate a long-term attitude. A good resource is "Starting and Running a Profitable Investment Club," by O'Hara and Janke. Call the National

Association of Investors Corp. at 248-583-6242 for an introductory pamphlet or check their websites at www.better-investing.org.

3. **Take a part-time or temporary job** — With low unemployment rates nationwide, many employers are strapped for help. Check your state's Department of Economic Security for back-to-work programs slated for seniors. Or, turn a hobby into a business of your own. The non-profit group, SCORE, provides counseling on starting a business, setting up a website, bookkeeping, and other business challenges. Call 1-800-634-0245 to find a SCORE chapter near you. However, if you're younger than 70, check any earnings limits that may affect your Social Security benefits.

4. **Volunteer** — Opportunities to volunteer time at organizations are countless. In his book, Jimmy Carter describes his work with Habitat for Humanity, Friendship Force, and the National Senior Service Corps. If you're a retired business executive, you have expertise that can be used at places such as SCORE to help counsel others.

5. **Go back to school** — Many colleges and universities set lower tuition for seniors. Or, check out Elderhostel college-level, non-credit courses in your city. They're open to anyone 55 or older, and a spouse or adult companion can attend, too. Call toll-free at 877-426-8056, option 3 to get their catalogs.

6. **Travel** — Take advantage of lower airfares on some airlines for people over 62. Also, there are often travel bargains advertised in newspapers or through travel services for travelers who have the freedom to leave at a moment's notice. Elderhostel also combines travel with educational or volunteer opportunities.

7. **Get exercise** — Staying active in your golden years may yield better health. One of the easiest ways to do this is to incorporate exercise into hobbies that may include flyfishing, bird-watching, skiing, tennis, walking, or jogging.

These are just a few ideas of how you can enjoy an active "third age." Check out your local libraries, bookstores, and websites for more resources devoted to older people.

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An Offer To Buy...

There's a myriad of details involved in selling your home. If you're planning to sell, you'll need to know how to handle offers you receive on your home.

First, you must decide on a price. Your sales associate can estimate your proceeds — the sale price minus fees, taxes, and insurance.

When you receive an offer, carefully review it because once you and the buyer sign it, it becomes the contract of the sale.

Don't be concerned if the offer is your asking price. That means you priced your home right!

If the offer is less than you wanted, look at the contract as a whole. Perhaps the buyer is assuming some of the closing expenses you expected to pay. And consider splitting the difference if you and the buyer come within about \$1,000 of each other.

You can accept the terms of the offer and sign it, make a counteroffer to the buyer with some changes, or reject the offer entirely. If you counteroffer, realize that there may be more counteroffers before the final agreement is signed.

As a part of the offer process, an earnest money deposit will be held by a third party until an agreement is reached. At that time, the money is usually credited to the buyer and applied to the down payment.

Until you accept the offer, the buyer can get the money back. You may keep the earnest money if the buyer fails to follow through with the contract once it's accepted.

For more information on selling a home, call Pam Savioli at (413) 748-7565.

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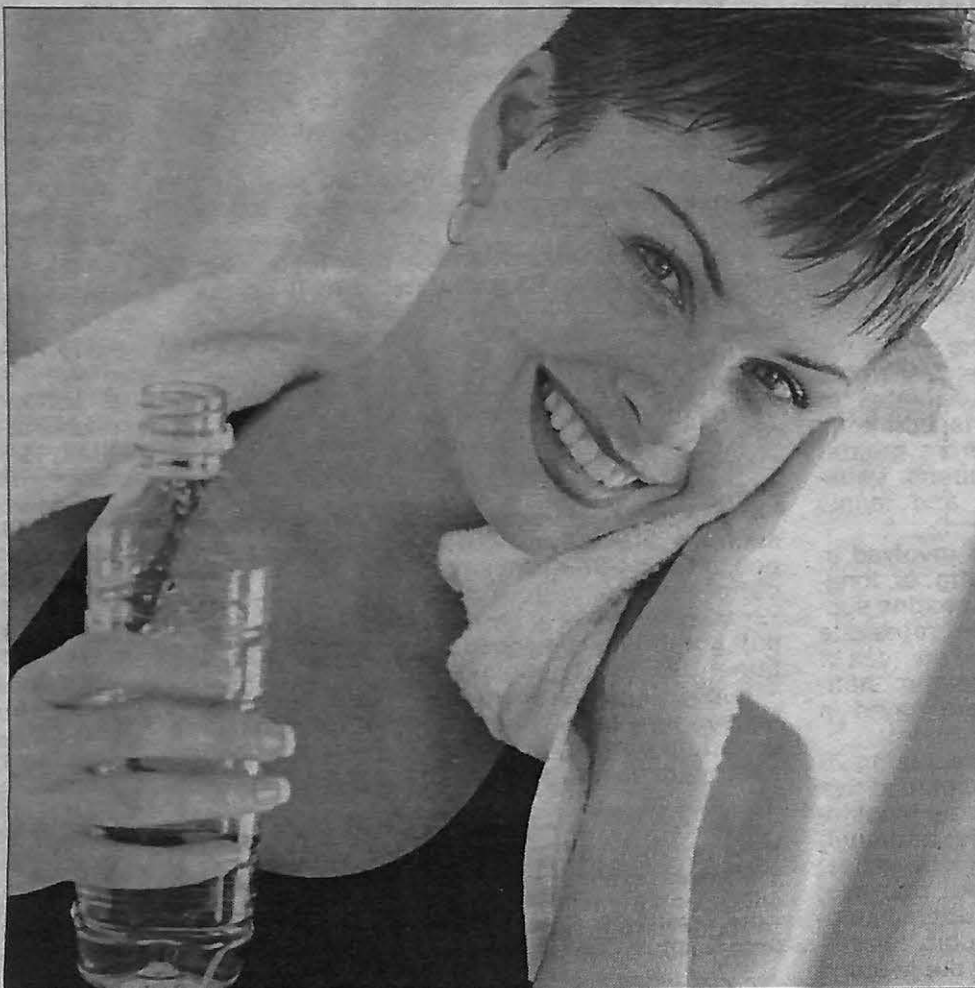
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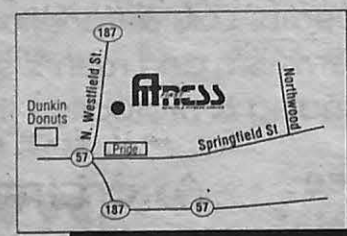
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For Your Health

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Chiropractic Care
by
Dr. Tami Nelson
Chiropractic Physician
Hampden County Chiropractic
850 Springfield St.
Feeding Hills
786-4820

What Is "Creatine"???

Several weeks ago, I had a patient inquire about supplementing creatine to help bulk up the muscles. He was a teenager trying to increase his muscle mass. I was not too familiar with creatine, so I decided to do a little research on the subject.

Creatine is a nutrient that is naturally found in our bodies. It is made from a combination of the three amino acids arginine, glycine, and methionine. Creatine helps provide the energy our muscles need to move, particularly movements which are quick and explosive in nature. This includes the types of motion involved in most sports.

Creatine appears to help improve the size of the muscles, which also helps to improve anaerobic activity and athletic performance. Athletes in bodybuilding, powerlifting, martial arts, sprinting, and track-and-field events benefit from greater strength and performance. Also, wrestlers, swimmers, football, hockey, basketball, and tennis players.

It is still unclear whether athletes involved in endurance activities, such as running or long-distance bicycling, will benefit from creatine supplementation. Creatine is found in moderate amounts of most meats and fish. Good sources of dietary creatine include tuna, cod, salmon, herring, beef, and pork. Tiny amounts are found in milk and even cranberries.

Creatine promoters typically suggest taking 20 grams a day for five days, then maintaining at five to 10 grams per day. This is a large dose. Most investigators assume creatine is safe, although there is little data about long-term, high-dose use.

Some users have complained about diarrhea, nausea, and cramps. Although brief supplementation with creatine involves anaerobic performance, it is not clear that continuing supplementation produces further effects.

Another issue to address is product purity. It is important to purchase high-quality products from companies that can guarantee their products. A small impurity can have a dangerous effect.

That's some information regarding creatine. If you're interested in more info, please contact our office.

Dr. Nelson maintains an office at Hampden County Chiropractic, 850 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills. She can be reached at 786-4820.

For copies of his photos in this edition, please contact AAN photographer Jack Devine at 789-0053...

* * *

From The Safe Kids Coalition...

Some Poison Prevention Tips For The Home

During National Poison Prevention Week (March 21st-27th), parents are urged to poison-proof their homes and to become aware of the potentially poisonous substances found throughout the home.

"Children are particularly susceptible to poison-related accidents because what they see and reach for they also usually put in their mouths," said Shirley LaRoche, R.N., coordinator of the Western Massachusetts Safe Kids Coalition headquartered at Baystate Medical Center Children's Hospital.

To make your home safer for an ever-curious child, be aware of potential hazards by following these safety tips:

- **Keep poisonous products out of reach** by locking products in cabinets with safety locks.
 - **Stay alert while using poisonous household products.** When using a product like bathroom cleaner or bleach, make sure you know where your children are. As soon as you are done cleaning, store all household products out of reach.
 - **Never refer to medicine or vitamins as candy** creating the perception that it is harmless or pleasant to eat.
 - **Beware of certain cosmetics and personal products,** such as after-shave, cologne, hairspray, shampoo, and fingernail polish remover, and keep them out of reach of curious hands.
 - **Keep products in their original containers.** Never put potentially poisonous products in any container besides its original.
 - **Keep poisonous plants out of reach.** Learn which household plants, like dieffenbachia, philodendron, and pothos, are harmful and teach children not to put leaves, twigs, seeds, and bark into their mouths.
 - **Buy child-resistant containers** that deter children from opening and swallowing the poison.
 - **Install carbon monoxide detectors in the home** that will sound an alarm if carbon monoxide levels rise to a dangerous level.
 - **If your home was built before 1978, have it tested for lead-based paint.**
- If a poisoning occurs, follow these guidelines:
- **Be prepared.** Keep the telephone numbers of your physician, emergency medical services, and the Massachusetts Poison Center Hotline at 1-800-682-9211 next to the phone. Keep a bottle of ipecac syrup handy, but don't use it until you speak to a professional.
 - **Rinse skin with running water** for 15 minutes if a poison has come in contact with your child's skin. Remove any contaminated clothing.
 - **Flush eyes with cool water** by gently holding his or her eyelids open and pouring water into them for 15 minutes if the poison has gotten into the child's eyes.
 - **Do not give the child anything to treat the poison or induce vomiting** until you have consulted a medical professional.
- For more information on "Safe Kids" and poison prevention, call LaRoche at 794-5434.



Your Back And Your Health

by Dr. Joseph S. Schlaffer
Schlaffer Chiropractic Offices
192 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam

Unhappiness About Work Causes Back Pain?

Most people will experience pain in the lower back during their lifetime. But this doesn't account for the fact that debilitating low-back pain is a major reason individuals give for being absent from work and for a large proportion of disability insurance claims.

It has been hard to explain, especially since fewer and fewer people in the more economically developed nations work in physically demanding jobs in heavy industries.

A study in England showed that people who were dissatisfied with their jobs (or were stressed and unhappy about being unemployed) were two or three times more likely to be absent from work (or receiving treatment) because of low-back pain than were people who felt good about their work and economic situation.

If you experience back pain great enough to make you call in sick and possibly stay out of work for weeks, months, or even permanently, it may have more to do with your happiness or lack of it than with whether or not you have strained your back working.

The message is clear: it hurts to have a negative attitude. Unhappiness and discontent endanger your health and your livelihood. Your chiropractor can help you deal with your back pain and may also have some good ideas about how to improve your attitude.

Drs. Joseph and Katherine Schlaffer have been helping young and old alike get well, naturally, for over 20 years. Call 789-1369 or 789-1073 for an appointment. Schlaffer Chiropractic Office, 192 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam, MA 01001.

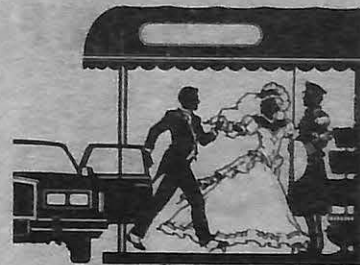
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"For Your Health" is a weekly feature of The Agawam Advertiser News.

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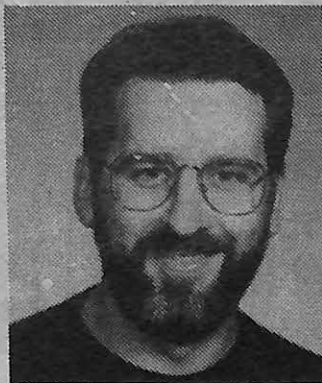
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For Your Health - continued...

Support Groups At Noble Hospital

Alcoholics Anonymous: Sunday evenings, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital, 115 West Silver Street, Westfield.

Free of charge. All are welcome.

Stroke Support Group: Wednesday, March 24th, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. In the Bronson Rehabilitation Center Dining Room at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals recovering from a stroke, spouses, caregivers, and other interested persons.

The topic of this meeting will be "Adapted Leisure Activities."

Diabetes: Tuesday, March 23rd, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals who have diabetes and their support persons.

Cancer Support Group To Meet At Mercy On Monday Evenings

Persons with cancer, their families, and friends are invited to attend Mercy Hospital's Cancer Support Group. Meetings are conducted Mondays, 7:00 p.m., in the Deliso Conference Center, and are free of charge.

The group offers information on topics of interest to cancer patients, and provides an opportunity to share experiences in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Meetings are facilitated by Sr. Madeleine Joy, S.P., of Mercy's Pastoral Care Department.

For more information, call the Pastoral Care Department, (413) 748-9453.

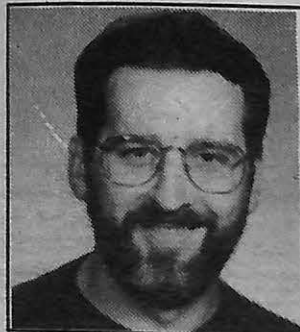
Hearing Screenings At Senior Center

Mercy Hospital's Weldon Mobile Hearing Center will conduct free hearing screenings and hearing aid checks at the Agawam Senior Center on the last Monday of the month, March 29th, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

In addition, full diagnostic hearing tests, evaluations, fittings, sales and service of hearing aids, and assistive-listening devices, can be scheduled on a fee-for-service basis.

The hearing van's audiology equipment is operated by nationally-certified audiologists from the Weldon Hearing Center at Mercy Hospital.

For a reservation, call the Agawam Senior Center at 786-0400, ext. 242 or 243.



"Let's Talk About It"

by Dan Pender
Marriage &
Family Therapist
P.O. Box 449
Agawam, MA 01001
(413) 789-4460

To Blame Or Not To Blame...

I often hear, "It's *your* fault the kids..." or "*You* are the reason I'm leaving the marriage, 'If only *you* took more responsibility, things wouldn't be so messed up.'"

Pointing the finger of blame, whether it be toward our partner, child(ren), parents, co-worker, God, a friend or a circumstance, is so much easier than trying to work at seeing the bigger picture. Taking into consideration this bigger picture or relationship *context*, challenges us to be as fair, realistic, and clear as possible about all sides of the picture.

In my opinion, oftentimes the most difficult and important thing to do, is *not* just look at the other's behavior, thoughts and feelings, but rather to really face your own side. It is this ability to honestly face the whole context that best describes the Family Therapy *systems* model.

Therapy is not about placing blame or pointing fingers. Blame only serves to limit possibilities for healing and change. Discussing how best to take responsibility is a much healthier way of being in a relationship.

Have you ever found yourself "stuck" in a *gluey* situation when all you could do was overly focus on another person's behavior? Sure, we all have! However, if this kind of stuckness is a way of life for you, it may be time to become intolerant with yourself and your ongoing willingness to be so hooked, determined, and/or limited by what someone else is saying or doing.

I give significant effort toward developing and empowering my "self" to be as self-giving and nurturing as possible, so as to truly be able to give of myself to another. In Judeo-Christian language, this is called following the Great Commandment: Love your neighbor as you love your "self."

Clinically speaking, this process is called becoming a *more differentiated self*. It is a process of becoming better able to learn how to

determine when and how to set better relationship boundaries. It is also about being more able to take an "I" position, especially during times of increased anxiety or tension. So often we turn to "YOU" statements to ease a difficult situation, only to find out that this only makes things even more difficult.

Contrast these "YOU" and "I" statements and see what connections you make:

"You never consider how you can help out around the house. All you do is what makes you feel good," "All you care about is going out with your friends," "If the kids really mattered to you, you'd be home more," "You never listen to my side," "You just don't get it, this is not just all about what you want," and so on.

Contrast those with: "I'm just not sure how to go about asking you to help out around the house," "I know you really need your friends, but I need to have my feelings considered, too!", "I wonder if you feel trapped between wanting to be home spending more time with the kids and needing to work so hard to financially care for us," and "I need to know if what I think and feel matters to you."

Now add into the mix heightened tension and anxiety. "You" statements quickly serve only to escalate the conflict, which then leads to more finger pointing and more blaming "You" statements. A viscous spiral.

Whereas, taking a more differentiated "I" position invites conversation and valuing of the other person's "I" position. This can lead to de-escalation of the tension, where conversation is possible to better hear the other's side.

Try this little experiment ... count how many times in a span of 10 minutes or so *you* use blaming "You" statements during both times of calm and tension in the air. Then switch and count how many "I" statements flow. Your "I" position will most likely be used less and be increasingly more difficult to use as tension rises, especially when children are involved.

How we parent or care for our "self" significantly influences how we relate to another adult and how we parent children ... more on this to come.

So please write to me with your feedback, relationship questions and topics and "Let's Talk About It."

Dan Pender, MA, MFT, is a Marriage & Family Therapist with a private practice in Agawam, MA. He is a Clinical member of the American Association of Marriage & Family Therapy and can be reached at P.O. Box 449, Agawam, MA 01001, (413) 789-4460.

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DAN PENDER'S COLUMN, "Let's Talk About It," is a new feature of The Agawam Advertiser News...

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For Your Health - continued...

Fitness Tips...

Explore The Options

by Carmela Kirk, RN
Fitness Director, Fitness First

It is easy sometimes to forget you have options. It's easy to look at someone and want to be where they are.

I met a colleague this weekend at the hospital; I hadn't seen her in years. After talking for a while, we drifted to the topic of fitness. I shared with her my branching off of nursing and into fitness, where I can explore prevention and wellness.

She immediately wanted information on what I did to stay in shape; it seemed she wanted to be passionate about her health. Everything I said I did, she had an excuse or reason why she could not engage in that activity.

Shortly afterward, I asked what she did. The response was more reasons why she could not exercise. None of which were real obstacles.

I left this brief meeting not feeling happy that I had seen an old friend, but almost guilty that I chose to make fitness a high priority. Crazy, huh? You do know you have options, right? You know you make decisions in your life, right?

In nursing, we are taught to always keep in mind individuality. Everyone is different; everyone has different reasons for what they do, how they do it, and why. Everyone needs to be respected where they are right now. So, Carmela, what exactly are you getting at???

Options!!! You choose what is right for you. I like the gym; you might not. I like group exercise to keep me fit and make me stronger; you might not. I like quiet, alone exercise on my recovery days; you might not. There is something for everyone.

Exercise is simply focuses activity. Find something you like and explore it, turn it into a daily routine. Enjoy the process of activity for your health. Remain open-minded to new ideas; the same thing gets boring all the time.

Know what makes you, you. Use that information to find a way to bring activity in your life. You do have options; you know that, right?

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Area Residents Help Friendly's "Cones For Kids" Campaign

Agawam residents contributed \$2,300 to Friendly's 18th Annual "Cones for Kids" campaign. The money will help fund 59 Easter Seals swim programs for children and adults with disabilities in communities all over Massachusetts.

Friendly's Restaurants raised \$266,800 in Massachusetts and \$1.4 million nationwide to support Easter Seals services that help people with disabilities expand their independence.

"Friendly's crews and guests are committed to Easter Seals. They know the money they raise helps their neighbors with disabilities," said Dennis Roberts, Friendly's Senior Vice President of Restaurant Operations.

Friendly's guests received five children's Valentine's Day Cards for a \$1 donation to Easter Seals. The cards featured new characters from Friendly's award-winning children's menu and are redeemable for free Friendly's Kid Cones. Guests also received a Coupon Book with \$45 worth of money-saving coupons on some of Friendly's favorites and a coupon valid for a free eight-inch by 10-inch color portrait from Photography by JC Penney.

During the 18 years the Friendly Ice Cream Corporation and Easter Seals have worked as partners, Friendly's has raised over \$18 million to support Easter Seals services for children and adults with disabilities.

Program On Women's Health Issues Slated For March 22nd At Agawam Public Library

On Monday, March 22nd from 7:00-8:30 p.m., Janice Canegallo will present a program on women's health issues at the Agawam Public Library.

Topics to be discussed include menopause, osteoporosis, breast health, and cardiovascular health. Ms. Canegallo, R.N., M.S., will emphasize staying healthy. All adult women are encouraged to devote an evening to themselves, so they will better understand how decisions they make today can enhance their future well-being.

As part of the program, Ms. Canegallo will field questions from participants. Please call the

The Atrium To Offer Free Educational Program On Dementia

The Atrium at Cardinal Drive in Agawam, in conjunction with Pfizer and Eisai, Inc. Pharmaceutical, is offering a free educational program to provide families with information on topics related to the dementia diagnosis.

Speakers include Susan Megaw, coordinator of the Memory Disorders Program at Baystate Medical Center.

Discussion will center around the importance of a complete evaluation and the role of each part in determining a diagnosis. Attorney Alan Ferrigno, in private practice for over 23 years, will discuss the importance of a will, estate planning, durable power of attorney, health care proxy, and planning for Medicaid.

Donald Hanifin, Jr., a specialist in long-term care insurance with Chase, Clarke, Stewart & Fontana, will focus his presentation on costs and payment sources for long-term care, including Medicare, HMO's, and private insurance.

The program will take place on April 14th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at The Atrium, the area's only assisted living residence designed around the memory loss. There is no charge and it is open to the public.

Light refreshments and finger foods will be served. Seating is limited and you are asked to call The Atrium at (413) 821-9911 to reserve a space.

library at 789-1550 to reserve a space for the program.

This program is part of a series of health programs for adults that the library is offering this year. In addition to the programs, the library has purchased over 259 new health items for the library collection.

The library's effort to expand its health collection and to inform the public about issues affecting their health is made possible with Federal funds administered through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Best hometown news with us - AAN!!!

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International Stars Coming To Agawam...



THE AWARD-WINNING "Young At Heart Chorus" will appear at the Agawam Middle School on Friday, April 9th, at 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Agawam Cultural Council, this performance is free of charge and open to the public.

Westfield Theatre Guild To Perform The Musical "CAMELOT" In April

The Westfield Theatre Group, a department of the Westfield Woman's Club, proudly announces that its 1999 spring musical will be "CAMELOT," with book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner and music by Frederick Loewe.

The show is being directed by Bob Laviolette, with David Kidwell as musical director. This duo last worked together in Westfield putting on "EVITA" to rave reviews. Roxanne Labato is the show's choreographer.

This well-known musical brings back to the Westfield stage Ed Carey in the lead role of King Arthur. He was last seen in Westfield as Che in "EVITA" and most recently as Harold Hill in "THE MUSIC MAN" in Amherst.

Guenevere will be portrayed by Louise Krieger, a newcomer to the WTG stage, but certainly a veteran performer in the area. Lancelot will be played by John Chartier, also a first-time performer on the WTG stage. He is accompanied by his "right-hand man" Dap, played by Mark Parsons.

The three lead knights include Tom LeCourt as Sir Lionel, Andy Banas as Sir Sagamore, and Jim O'Connor as Sir Dinadan. They lead a wonderful cast of knights, including Ken Caswell, Matt Kimmel, Bob DeLisle, Dick Painchaud, and Rick Spath.

Merlin is portrayed by Don Humason, with Dick Hamel as King Pellinore. James Brower makes his WTG debut playing Mordred. The role of Nymue is sung by Pat Thomas, who was last seen on the WTG stage as Mother Abbess in "THE SOUND OF MUSIC."

Newcomer Jacki Haney plays Morgan Le Fey. The Queen's ladies-in-waiting include Shelley Haber, Sue Ingraham, Jackie Gilmartin, Kathryn Leary, and Maureen McEvady, along with Laura Van Iderstine, Katy Berube, and Wendy Van Orden.

"CAMELOT" opens on April 9th with a benefit performance for the Westfield Area Mental Health Clinic. Tickets for this show only may be obtained by calling 568-1421.

The show continues on April 10th, 16th, 17th, 23th, and 24th, all at 8:00 p.m. There are matinees on April 17th and 24th at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors.

The box office will be open Monday through Thursday evenings, starting April 5th, between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. However, reservations may be made by calling the theatre at 572-6838.

Take the time to bring your family and friends to what will prove to be a magical time in "CAMELOT."

For copies of his photos in this edition, contact AAN photographer Jack Devine at 789-0053.



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Horoscope

by Dale Platenik

Pisces (Feb. 19th to March 20th): This week, Pisces, the waters of your ocean are calm and clear. Although sometimes you can't seem to get out of your own way, this is the time to use your creative talents and fulfill your special dream.

Aries (March 21st to April 19th): The olden instrument used for gaining access to secured areas is called the battering ram and usually had a detailed, sculptured head of its namesake on the forward end. This might be a good week for you to open some of your own locked doors, Aries, and share your true feelings with those you love.

Taurus (April 20th to May 20th): Bulls are known for their strength, and this week you will need yours. You are thrust into the bullring of action. You have an abundance of responsibilities and people are pulling at you from every direction. If you take things one at a time, don't look for the red flag; you'll come out a winner.

Gemini (May 21st to June 20th): Are you feeling a bit frayed at the edge this week, Gemini? If you'd stop playing good twin/bad twin and just "go for" what you want, all those tense feelings would stop.

Cancer (June 21st to July 22nd): Ancient Sumerians called your sign the Pincer, and this is a good symbol for you to consider this week, Cancer. Rather than worry about what everyone will think or say, take that crab claw and grab what you want.

Leo (July 23rd to Aug. 22nd): This is not the time for you to be exciting side-stage, Leo. Yes, you have some problems that seem to have you in their grip, but you will tame them quicker if you use that "roar" you are sometimes noted for. This is not the time to play at being humble.

Virgo (Aug. 23rd to Sept. 22nd): For those of you who have been looking for a love interest in all the wrong places, Cupid will smile upon you this week and shove you in the right direction. Eros also has a special arrow for those Virgoans already matched in a relationship.

Libra (Sept. 23rd to Oct. 22nd): You know how downhill is easy and uphill is work? Well, this week, Libra, put on your hiking boots. If you can remember that singing and laughing are good for the soul (and mind), those activities could make the gnarly stuff easier to deal with.

Scorpio (Oct. 23rd to Nov. 21st): They say, "Variety is the spice of life." Trying new things can also pull us out of a rut. It can be good to feel challenged by the uncertainty of something different — it broadens our perspective of ourselves. This week, Scorpio, try a new venture.

SEE HOROSCOPE - Page 30...

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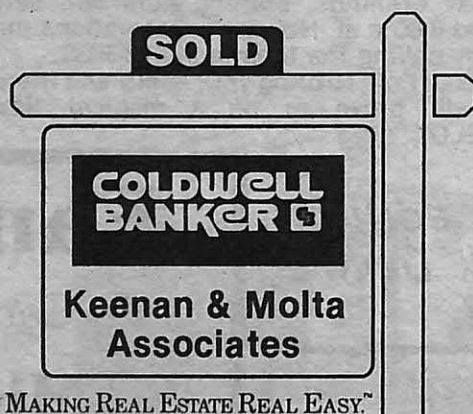
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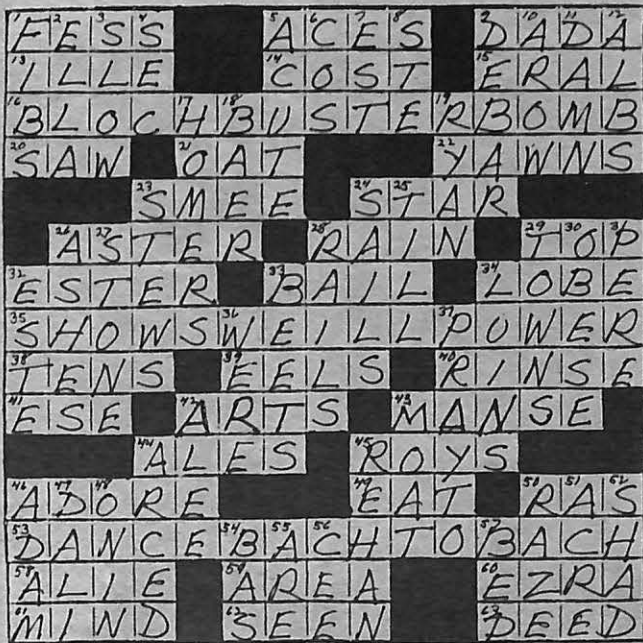
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Last Week's Solution...



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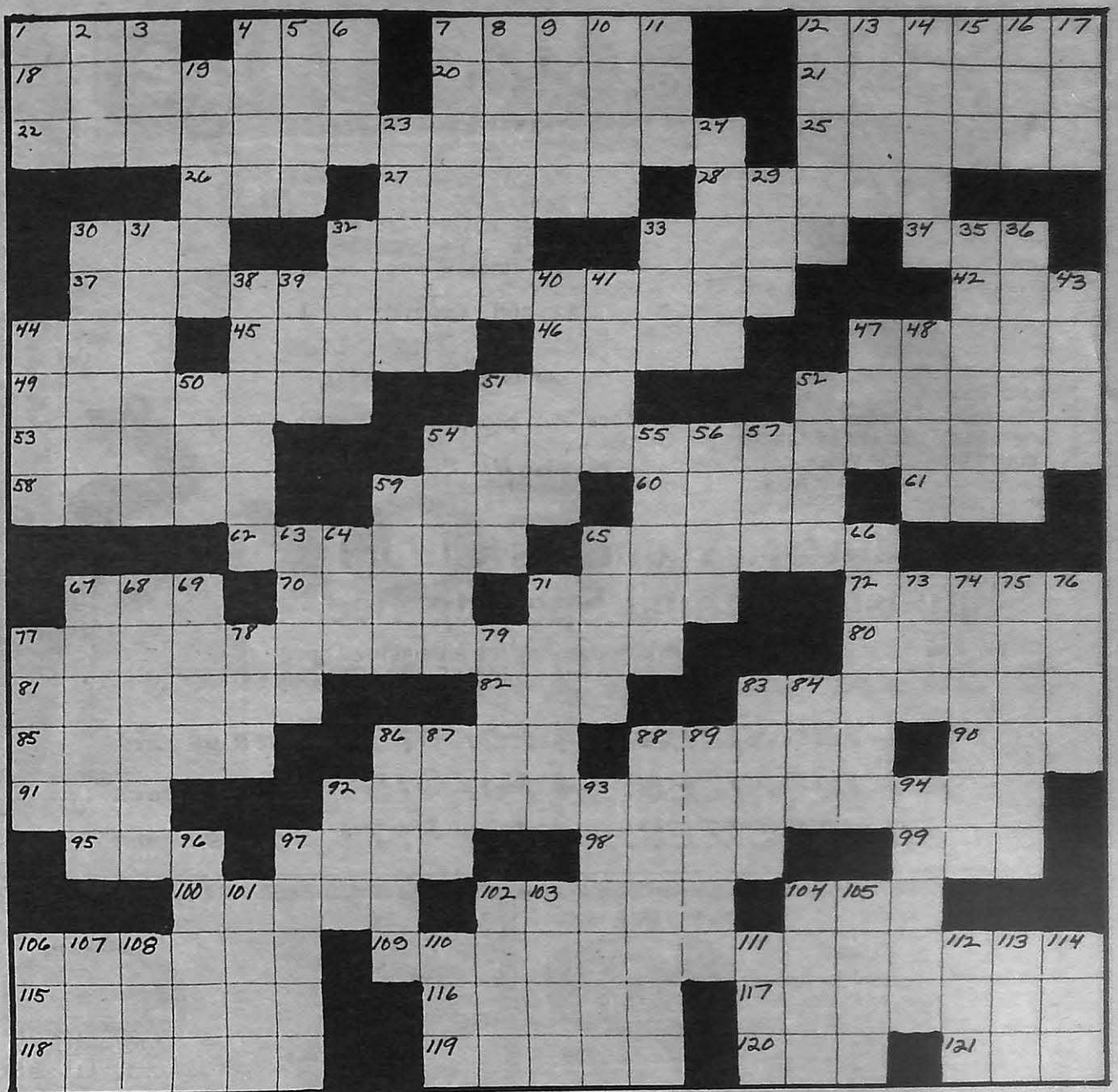
- 1 Above large
- 4 Merry month in STLO
- 7 An archangel
- 12 Return to custody
- 18 Like a balky mule
- 20 "— Rico"
- 21 Doted on
- 22 Composer/friend of 92A
- 25 Poet's output
- 26 Orange pekoe
- 27 Bonheur and Pon-selle
- 28 Omni once
- 30 Slow (var.)
- 32 Warsaw resident
- 33 Kiln
- 34 Asian locale to some
- 37 Composition by 22A
- 42 Lebanon (abbr.)
- 44 Direction (abbr.)
- 45 Yellow fever carrier
- 46 Word of woe
- 47 Word before ice cap
- 49 Certain weather broadcasts
- 51 Before (prefix)
- 52 Unruffled
- 53 Actor Christopher
- 54 "Country Gardens" composer
- 58 Puffed up snake
- 59 Refute
- 60 Merit
- 61 Poetical contraction
- 62 Evil ones
- 65 Temper by heat
- 67 Welcoming item?
- 70 Vein (Lat.)
- 71 Picnic intruders
- 72 Priestly vestment
- 77 Russian and Ludmila composer
- 80 Fare
- 81 U.F.O. riders
- 82 Depot
- 83 Work schedules
- 85 Taiz's land
- 86 — Alto, Calif.
- 88 To err is —
- 90 Summer quaff
- 91 Round object
- 92 One of the 3 B's
- 95 "— buster" (Western farmer)
- 97 House (Sp.)
- 98 Dairy case purchase
- 99 Dos Passos trilogy
- 100 Varnish resin
- 102 Fine fabric
- 104 "— voyage"
- 106 What the magic dragon did
- 109 Composition by 92A
- 115 Actress Dahl
- 116 Mealtime lead-in
- 117 Man from Nome
- 118 Emulates Mr. Ed
- 119 Fathers
- 120 Cure hides
- 121 "The — and I"

DOWN

- 1 Ingot
- 2 Altar response
- 3 "Gift of —"
- 4 Foal's mom
- 5 Pilaster
- 6 "— Impossible" (Como song)
- 7 Agrees with
- 8 Awakens
- 9 Woman's name

- 10 Greek letters
- 11 Chaney
- 12 Blackbird
- 13 First garden
- 14 Actress Erin
- 15 Art (Lat.)
- 16 Formerly named
- 17 Dentist's degree
- 19 Child's lament
- 23 Hag
- 24 Church sections
- 29 Thing, at law
- 30 Stole
- 31 "— over" (put on airs)
- 32 Mod homes
- 33 "— Clear Day You Can..."
- 35 Assert
- 36 More nasty
- 38 Office stampers
- 39 Peggy of song
- 40 Tote
- 41 Power source for short
- 43 Rabbit or fox lead-in
- 44 Spinal membrane
- 47 Architect P.I.
- 48 French river
- 50 Broad street
- 51 Writes
- 52 Yemen capital
- 54 Type of code
- 55 Busybody
- 56 Lightweight title holder, 1902-08
- 57 B&O for one
- 59 Bumpkin's expletive
- 63 Rara —
- 64 Part of NET&T
- 65 Singer/composer Paul
- 66 Gus' lady in "Lonesome Dove"
- 67 Certain runners
- 68 Hands on hips
- 69 Quaker's word
- 71 Actress Susan
- 73 "— Tin-Tin"
- 74 Cartoonist Charles
- 75 "— sheltered life"
- 76 Gaelic
- 77 Favorite garnish for short
- 78 Cape north of Boston
- 79 Isle (Sp.)
- 83 Early pulpit
- 84 Needlefish
- 86 Postulate
- 87 Word of comprehension
- 88 Spirals
- 89 "— hooks" (shipping inst.)
- 92 Toast topping
- 93 Pay attention to
- 94 Acts the nimrod
- 96 Put off action
- 97 Gives in to another
- 101 Pre-Easter season
- 102 Rani's wrap
- 103 Seaweed
- 104 Mr. Lugosi
- 105 1942 landing site for the "Red I"
- 106 Dance step
- 107 Container for an ode
- 108 "Mel's Diner" waitress
- 110 Football positions
- 111 Large tank
- 112 Hawaiian plunker
- 113 Cloth scrap
- 114 Churchill's country

Meet The Master - by Dick Mastroianni...



HOROSCOPE - from Page 27...

Sagittarius (Nov. 22nd to Dec. 21st): You let that arrow fly, didn't you, Archer? You weren't certain where it would land, so you were reluctant to do it. It hit the bull's eye. Your target is a good one and will reward you well this week.

Capricorn (Dec. 22nd to Jan. 19th): In the world of the physical, on the material plane in which we live, we see duality where there is really only unity. That's why the saying of Hermes Trismegistes is so important: "As above, so below." Use this as a mantra this week, Capricorn.

Aquarius (Jan. 20th to Feb. 18th): Lots of opportunities are coming your way this week, Aquarius. The odd thing about opportunity is that we can only use them when we recognize them for what they are. Look closely before taking action and choose wisely.

(Editor's note: Dale Platenik of Holyoke has been an astrologer for 19 years, has taught it and related subjects, and works as a counselor in the field. She does individual Astrology charts based on the time, place, and date of birth. Charts can be natal, progressed, for couple's comparison, or used for business. She can be reached at 539-5934.)

"Introduction To Babysitting" At The Agawam Library

The Agawam Public Library will offer its annual INTRODUCTION TO BABYSITTING series for youngsters ages 10 and up on Thursdays, April 8th, 15th, and 22nd, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the library's Community Room.

Health and safety issues will be covered by Registered Nurse Hilda Bartnik, Fire Department Officer Michael Mercadante, and Police Safety Officer Karen Langevin.

Library staff members will offer suggestions for age-appropriate activities when babysitting infants and young children. Certificates will be awarded to everyone who attends all three sessions.

Registration is limited to Agawam and Feeding Hills residents who have not previously participated in the program, and will continue through April 7th or until the series is filled to capacity.

Please sign up in person at the library, which is located at 750 Cooper Street, Agawam.

ADVERTISER NEWS

Tickets Still Available For NYC

Tickets are still available for the Agawam Cultural Council's plan-your-own-trip to New York City on Saturday, May 15th.

Several stops will be made along Fifth Avenue for the convenience of those attending, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rockefeller Center, the Times Square Show Ticket Booth, 34th Street, and South Street Seaport.

Tickets may be obtained by sending a check made out to the "Agawam Cultural Council" — along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope — to the Agawam Cultural Council, 933 River Road, Agawam, MA 01001. The cost of the trip is \$20 per person.

For further information, call 786-1859.

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Education

"World Language Night" Held On March 4th At Agawam High

Agawam High School held "World Language Night" on Thursday, March 4th, hosted by **Leila Mounemneh** and **Holly Moren**.

"The World," a presentation of slides of photographs from neighboring nations which were collected, was presented by **Nikita Reshamwala**.

Performers **Anthony Goodrow**, **John Marcotte**, **Katherine Shannon**, **Amy Champagne**, **Adam Howe**, and **Eric Hoague** presented "A Day Of Class," touting the value of knowing a second language and explaining why it is "unsurpassed by any other academic subject."

"Interpretation," described as "The love of her life. Now if she just knew what he was saying," was performed by **Jen Loomis**, **Emily Tampone**, and **Laura Tenerowicz**.

"Sounds of Italy," a special performance by a group of very talented "sopranos," was led by teacher Mr. Orefice.

World Language Week prizes were passed out by Mrs. Poudrier, as were Academic Achievement Awards. French and Spanish Honor Society inductions were also held at the special event.

Agawam Jr. Women's Club To Sponsor Annual Spelling Bee

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is sponsoring the annual town spelling bee on March 26th at 7:00 p.m. at the Agawam Middle School. The contest is open to the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades.

Competing in the spelling bee will be a representative from each homeroom class in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. The public is invited to attend the spelling bee.

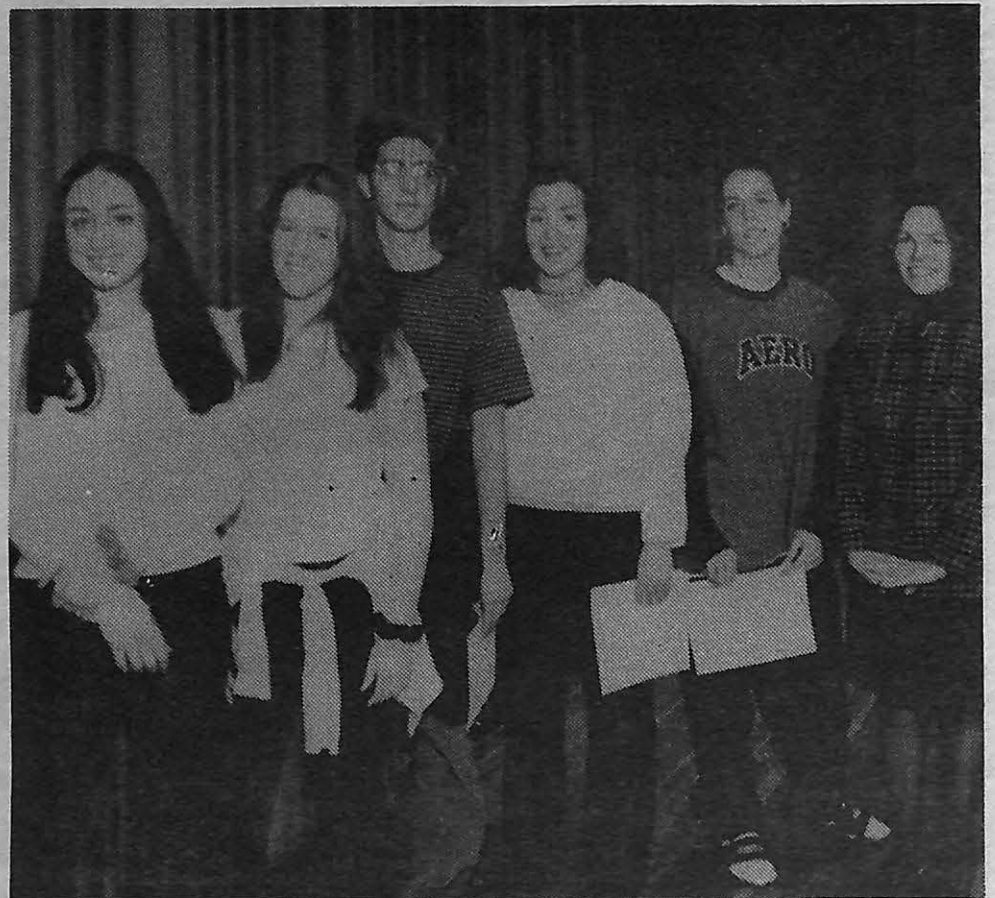
Serving as the "pronouncer" once again will be Paul Sutton, former meteorologist at News 40 and an Agawam resident. The judges will be Roberta Doering, School Committee member; Judith Clini, Agawam Library reference librarian; and Kathy Mounemneh, an English teacher at Agawam High School.

Awards will be presented to all participants and prizes will be given to first- and second-place winners at each grade level.

For more information, please call Sue Godfrey at 786-9293, or Theresa Conklin at 786-6515.

The spelling bee is being sponsored by the Agawam Junior Women's Club, a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs in Massachusetts.

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays.



FACULTY MEMBER MELANIE POUDRIER (far right) with just some of the Agawam High School students who participated in "World Language Night" on Thursday, March 4th. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

* * *

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At Agawam Junior High... Family Science & Technology Night A Big Success

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

A balloon rocket race topped off an evening of brainteasing puzzles and hands-on activities in math, science, and technology for students and their families at last week's Junior High Family Science and Technology Night.

"We asked our students and their families to come in and have fun exploring math, science, and technology activities by applying some of the concepts we've been talking about in class. The idea is to get kids and families involved in problem-solving using the techniques we talk about like measuring, graphing, or making comparisons," according to Science Curriculum Coordinator Robert Sartwell.

Scattered throughout the cafeteria, families put their heads together solving puzzles by using coins and cards, building towers to support a pie in the sky, or constructing bridgework spanning a triangular arrangement of paper cups using popsicle sticks.

Seventh-grader **Steven Hopkins** said his teacher (Sartwell) convinced him that the Science and Technology Night would be fun. "And it was. It's something to do and it's fun," Steven said. "When my teacher said it would be fun, I thought I'd give it a try."

Steven quietly figured out a way to solve the cups and sticks problem by bracing the sticks on top of each other. But, solving the puzzle was only part of the fun. The best part was watching his father, Dennis, struggle to come up with a solution.

"My favorite thing was the cups and sticks puzzle because my dad still hasn't solved that one," Steven said. "He always tells us the answers to things, but not tonight."

The Lownds family, Bill, Mary, and daughters, Amy and Nicole, enjoyed the challenge of building a tower capable of supporting a small pie. "All we can use is a measured amount of spaghetti and mini-marshmallows to build the tower," Mrs. Lownds said. "It's been entertaining to see all the activities we can do using simple household things. This is much better than sitting in front of the TV."

Asked why he wanted to go back to school at night to do more work, eighth-grader **Ian Hamlett** said, "I just like math and science." Ian's dad, Tim, said he and wife like to support school activities whenever they can. "It's great to see what the kids and the teachers are up to," Hamlett said.

Seventh grade science teacher **Kathy Connor** said the open-ended brainteasers kept the students thinking as they looked for new or better solutions. "It's nice to see the students latch onto a problem they can't solve with a yes or no answer. There isn't any one right way to do something like build a tower."

Pleased with the evening's turnout, Principal **Kevin Littlefield** noted, "It was a well-attended evening and it was nice to see the kids and their parents working as a team to solve the various puzzles."

Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, March 22nd: Pepperoni-topped pizza wedge, tossed garden salad with spinach greens and Italian dressing, chilled diced pears in syrup, milk.

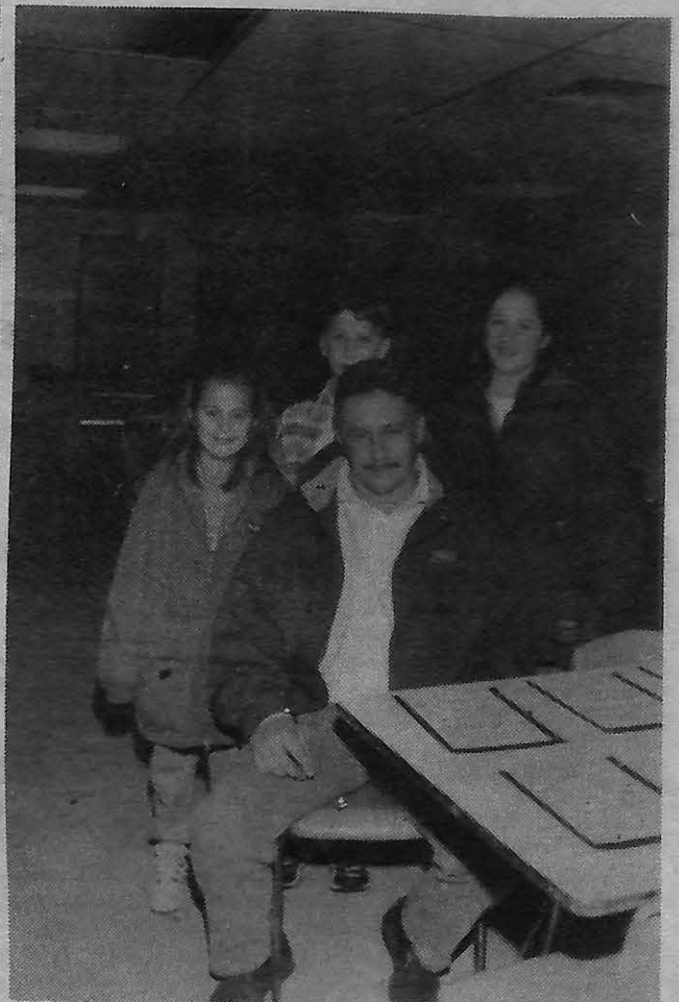
Tuesday, March 23rd: Cheeseburg in roll, seasoned potato wedges, vegetable medley, fruit cup or chocolate pudding with topping, milk.

Wednesday, March 24th: Chicken parmesan sandwich, steamed rice, seasoned diced carrots, apple crisp, milk.

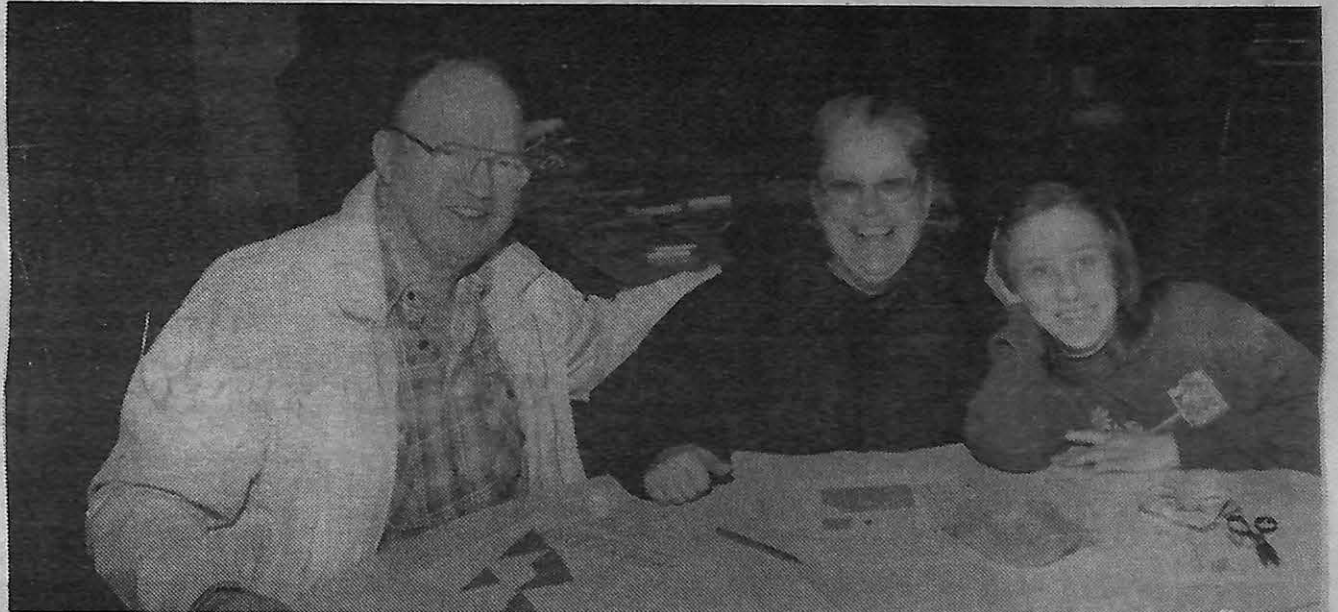
Thursday, March 25th: Hamburg with gravy on whipped potatoes, seasoned green beans, bread and butter, fruit cup or midnight chocolate cake with icing, milk.

Friday, March 26th: No school lunches (In-Service Day).

All the hometown news
with us ... AAN!!!



IN LEFT PHOTO: Michael and James DeFilippi with teacher Jim Graveline (far right). IN RIGHT PHOTO: Brittany, Craig, Michael, and Kelse LaPlante. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



LEARNING ABOUT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY can be fun for all ages: Ed Proctor, Peggy Proctor, and Jennifer Castle. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Eddie Knows How To Cook,
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“Read Aloud Week” Celebrates The Birthday Of Dr. Seuss

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

A national birthday party for Dr. Seuss recently turned into a week-long celebration of reading out loud in classrooms for pre-schoolers through middle schoolers in Agawam, and one elementary school will keep the party going for the rest of the month.

The National Education Association asked all school districts across the country to participate in Read Across America on the day that Springfield native Theodore Geisel, a.k.a. Dr. Seuss, would have celebrated his 95th birthday. But, the Agawam Education Association took a good idea a step further in asking parents, local officials, and community members to visit the schools as guest readers for Read Aloud Week, in honor of Dr. Seuss.

AEA President Andrew Bower said Read Across America marks the first time any group has tried to organize an educational project to run on one day in all the public schools across the country.

The Benefits Of Reading To Children

“The idea is to encourage parents to read out loud to their children,” Bower said. “It’s been proven that having someone read to them sparks their interest and gets children to want to learn to read. I think the NEA chose Dr. Seuss to focus on because his books were among the first to stress rhyming words and educational gurus are stressing the importance of exposing children to rhyming words early on in developing early reading skills.”

In addition to inviting parents and town officials to join the party, each school PTO sent letters to local businesses, civic organizations, and senior citizen housing complexes, asking for volunteer readers.

The response from the community spanned the generations with a cadre of high school students from the Future Teachers of America, Peer Leaders, and the National Honor Society as well as groups of senior citizens answering the invitation to read to a class.

At Quail Run Estates elderly community, the invitation from the Robinson Park PTO sparked so much interest that Activity Director Dorothy Mapes was forced to form two separate groups to visit the school. A retired librarian and former third grade teacher, Mrs. Mapes joined the first group of readers at Robinson last week and is working with Principal William Sapelli in developing an on-going program of monthly visits to the school.

“When we heard about the program, 16 people signed up,” Mrs. Mapes said. “Several said they read to their grandchildren and wanted to do this for the schools and some were retired school teachers.”

Bower said the response from Quail Run shows that senior citizens, even if they haven’t always lived here, want to take an active part in the community. “The seniors see this as a nice way of getting back into the schools and we think it’s wonderful,” Bower said.

At Robinson, joining the NEA birthday party for Dr. Seuss meant shifting the annual Read Aloud Month from January to March and the PTOs at the other elementary schools, the Early Childhood Center, and the Middle School agreed to join a week-long read aloud program district-wide. Even the School Lunch Program got into the spirit by serving ham in tribute to “Green Eggs and Ham” and green-frosted cake, Bower said. Some PTOs handed out green jelly beans to represent the green eggs.

For the last 15 years, Read Aloud Month at Robinson has been encouraging parents to foster a love of reading in their children by reading out loud at home and by coming to school to read to the children.

Community Involvement

“When they get involved in Read Aloud, people are seeing how excited the kids get when someone reads to them and they’re seeing that the schools can’t do it alone. We need the help and assistance of the parents,” Sapelli said. “We know there are many people who can’t leave work to come to school and read, but the nice thing about our program is that the parents can do this at home. It’s a great way to bond with their children.”

The goal of the program is to show the children that there is pleasure in reading so that they will better appreciate the value of reading, Sapelli said.

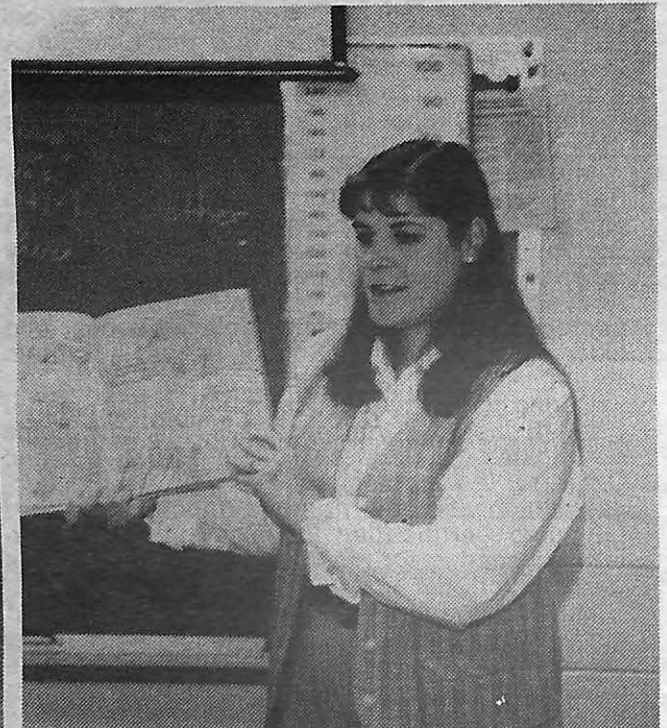
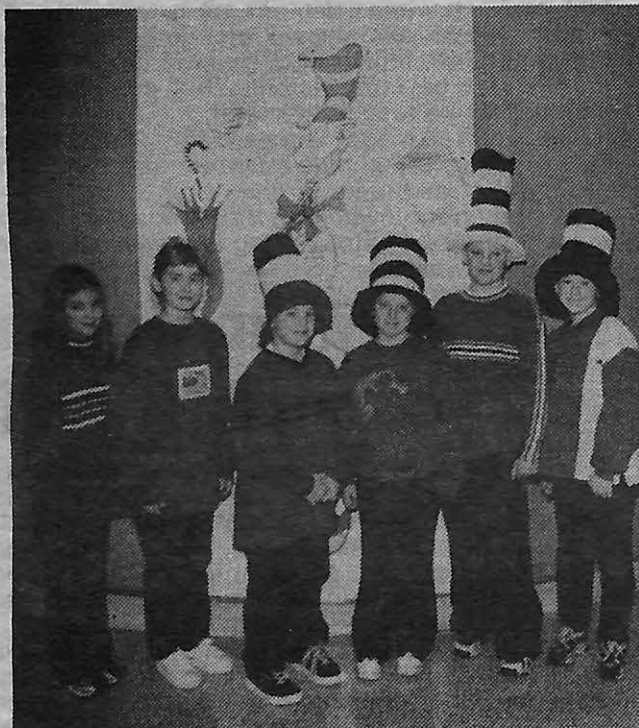
“Reading is the key to learning,” Sapelli said. “Show me a child who loves to read and I’ll show you a child who will be successful.”

With funding from the AEA and the school PTOs, each school received two “Cat in the Hat” style hats, souvenir pins for staff members and volunteer readers, and keepsake bookmarks for each student as a reminder of the week.



SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER Rosemary Sandlin (back row) read to third-graders in Room 15 at James Clark School during the week-long celebration of Dr. Seuss’ birthday.

Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



IN LEFT PHOTO: Robinson Park students Kaleigh Payette, Kayleigh Goldrup, Alfredo Settembre, Kaitlyn Iacolo, David Therrier, and Jason Polek. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Mrs. Gonçalves, one of the local parents who recently volunteered to read to Agawam schoolchildren.

Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

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From AHS Guidance Department...

An Open Memo To My Parents

by Judy Cohen
Agawam High School Guidance Counselor

The following is a memo compiled by students. Read each point carefully, perhaps reviewing each with your child.

I know you will find this an interesting memo, one that will give you insight as a parent. Perhaps you, too, would like to write one to your child.

1. Don't spoil me. I know quite well that I should not have all that I ask for; I am only testing you.

2. Don't be afraid to be firm with me. Actually, it makes me feel more secure.

3. Don't let me form bad habits. I rely on you to detect them.

4. Don't make me feel smaller than I am. It only makes me behave stupidly "big."

5. Don't forget that I cannot explain myself as I should like. This is why I'm sometimes not accurate.

6. Don't make me feel my mistakes are sins. It upsets my sense of values.

7. Don't protect me from consequences. I need to learn the painful way, sometimes.

8. Don't be too upset when I say "I hate you." It isn't really you I hate; I am just upset.

9. Don't take too much notice of my small ailments. Sometimes they get me the attention I need.

10. Don't nag. If you do, I shall have to protect myself by appearing deaf.

11. Don't tell me my fears are silly. They are terribly real and you can do much to reassure me, if you try to understand.

12. Don't make rash promises. Remember that I feel let down when promises are broken.

13. Don't tax my honesty too much. I am easily frightened into telling lies.

14. Don't be inconsistent. That confuses me and makes me lose faith in you.

15. Don't put off when I ask questions. If you do, you will find that I stop asking and seek my information elsewhere.

16. Don't put off when I ask questions. If you do, you will find that I stop asking and seek my information elsewhere.

17. Don't ever suggest that you are perfect or infallible. It gives me too great a shock when I discover that you are neither.

18. Don't ever think it is beneath your dignity to apologize to me. An honest apology makes me feel surprisingly warm toward you.

19. Don't forget how quickly I am growing up. It must be very difficult for you to keep pace with me, but please try.

20. Don't forget I love experimenting. If what I am trying is O.K., do put up with me. Ask me questions and I will try to explain.

21. Don't forget that I can't thrive without lots of understanding and love. But, I don't need to tell you that, do I?

GUIDANCE BULLETIN

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES: Congratulations!

Heather Adams: American International College, Springfield Technical Community College.

Joseph Fiore: University of Massachusetts.

Alicyn Siano: Marist College.

Michelle Heim: Westfield State College.

Bridget Donovan: Becker College.

Kelly Cortis: Westfield State College, University of Massachusetts.

Robert Wray: University of Vermont.

Jason Flood: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

*** SCHOLARSHIPS:** See your counselor for more information or an application.

Massachusetts Flower Growers' Association Scholarship: Applicants must major in a course of study in horticulture, floriculture, or related studies. To apply, a student must have been a resident of Massachusetts for one year prior to application. Deadline: April 30, 1999.

Massachusetts Horticulture Scholarship: Open to students who plan to major in horticulture in college. Deadline: April 15, 1999.

American Legion-Hampden County Council Past Commander's Scholarship: Open to any child or grandchild of a member of any American Legion post located in Hampden County. Deadline: April 15, 1999.



MICHAEL DEFILIPPI

Michael DeFilipi Accepted To Springfield College

Michael DeFilipi, an Agawam High School senior, has been accepted into the Emergency Medical Services Management Program at Springfield College. This highly competitive program is the only higher-education institution in the region that offers this bachelor's level program.

Michael has been an Agawam High School Renaissance Scholar for four years, has been elected to "Who's Who Among American High School Students" for two years, and recently received the Agawam High School's prestigious Academic Letter. He is graduating in the top 25 percent of his class. Michael played soccer and skied for Agawam High School. He was a Captain for the ski team.

During the summer months, Mike has been a Surf Lifeguard in Rhode Island. He currently holds certificates in Lifeguard Training, First Aid, and C.P.R. for the Professional Rescuer. He has successfully passed the rigorous Rhode Island Surf Lifeguard Certification Examination and is currently preparing for his Water Safety Instructor's Certification.

Michael thanks his excellent teachers and guidance counselors for preparing him for college. He would like to give special thanks to Coach Al O'Quinn and Coach Glenn Olson for inspiring him to always give his best. Michael credits his excellent teachers, guidance counselors, and coaches for giving him the skills to have a successful future.

Michael is the son of Robert and Janice DeFilipi of Agawam.

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Agawam Junior High To Hold "Scheduling Information Night"

The Agawam Junior High School has planned a "Scheduling Information Night" for parents of incoming seventh grade students (present sixth grade class) on Wednesday, March 24th, from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Junior High School auditorium to explain the course selection process for the incoming seventh grade students.

We believe this informational program will facilitate your child's transition to the Junior High School next September. In addition to the seventh grade curriculum and scheduling process, the program will feature information regarding

homework requirements, progress reports, handbooks/agendas, promotion policy, honor society, and other organizations.

School principal Kevin Littlefield, assistant principal Marc Costanzi, and guidance counselors Jeanne Trinquet and Frank Meagher will be present to answer any individual questions or concerns.

We look forward to meeting you on Wednesday, March 24th and welcome your support in the education of your children.



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SUSAN DEFILIPPI

Susan DeFilipi Accepted To Mass. College Of Pharmacy

Susan DeFilipi, a pharmacy major at Western New England College, has been accepted into the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in Boston. Susan, who has made the Dean's List every semester at WNEC, was recently commended by the President of the College at a special dinner. Successful completion of this six-year program results in the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy.

Sue, a 1996 graduate of Agawam High School, would like to thank all of her former teachers for preparing her for college. She would also like to thank her coaches. Special thanks go to Coach Dean Vecchiarelli, Coach Lou Conte, Coach Mary Murray, and Coach Linda Kunasek. These coaches inspired her to always do her best, stay focused, and be a team player. Susan credits her excellent teachers and coaches for giving her the skills to be a successful college student.

Susan is the daughter of Robert and Janice DeFilipi of Agawam.

Agawam Residents Named To Dean's List At Boston University

Three Agawam residents have recently been named to the Dean's List at Boston University for the fall semester.

Students recognized for this honor include: Heather A. Chichakly, Stephen R. Cincotta, Jr., and Jennifer C. Giroux.

Boston University is the third-largest independent university in the United States, with an enrollment of nearly 30,000 students in its 15 schools and colleges. The University offers an exceptional grounding in the liberal arts, a broad range of programs in the arts, engineering, science and professional areas, and state-of-the-art facilities for teaching and research.

Located in the heart of a city rich in cultural and intellectual attractions, the University is one of the nation's preeminent institutions of higher learning.

Michael Domaingue On Dean's List At Univ. of Hartford

Students at the Barney School of Business and Public Administration, University of Hartford, have been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 1998-1999 academic year.

Among the students from Massachusetts who have been named to the Dean's List is Michael Domaingue of Agawam.

The University of Hartford is an independent, comprehensive institution of high education, offering educational and career programs in 86 undergraduate majors and 57 graduate programs of study in its nine schools and colleges.

Local Students Attain Dean's List At WNEC

Western New England College has named the following area students to the Dean's List for the 1998 fall semester:

* From Agawam

Stephanie J. Bean, Erin E. Grady, Ryan D. Grealis, Tara A. Grealis, Cristina M. Ianello, Amy M. McKinney, Danielle L. Roy, and Todd R. Zern.

* From Feeding Hills

Mark W. Brittain, Sarah J. Cote, Carmine M. Keane, Justin M. Malek, Brandon T. Robb, Kate E. Rouvellat, Christopher J. Sullivan, and Sean C. Szezygiel.

Western New England College, founded in 1919, is a private, nonsectarian, coeducational institution located on an attractive, 185-acre suburban campus in Springfield, MA.

The college serves its 4,800 students on its Springfield main campus, at more than 20 sites throughout the Commonwealth, and at its downtown Springfield campus.

Undergraduate and graduate programs are offered through the college's Schools of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Law.

On Saturday, March 27th...

Bay Path College To Hold Open House For Prospective Students

Bay Path College will hold an Open House for prospective students and their families on Saturday, March 27th, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

This informative session will include general information about the college; an overview of admissions; an opportunity to meet with financial aid representatives and representatives from the athletic department; a complimentary lunch; the opportunity to meet Bay Path College President Carol Leahy and faculty members; and a campus tour.

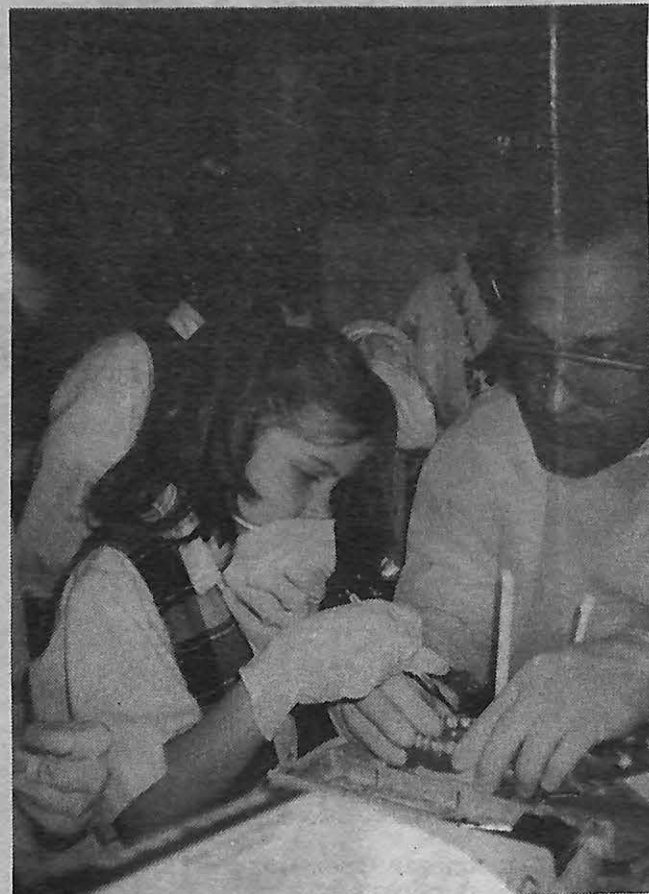
For more information and to register, please call (413) 565-1331 or toll-free, 1-800-782-7284.

* * *

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ADVERTISER NEWS

* * *

"Open Wide"...



FIRST-GRADERS AT SPRINGFIELD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL recently enjoyed a tour of Baystate Dental Care. In the photo above, Rebecca Schnepf of Feeding Hills (left) learns about "fillings" from dental hygienist Renzo Ventrice.

Professional Dev. For Agawam Schools Slated For Mar. 26th

On Friday, March 26th, the Agawam Public Schools will conduct a full day of professional development for all PreK-12 staff.

Consequently, schools will not be in session that day, since teachers will spend the entire day attending various conferences, workshops, and training sessions.

Students will return to school on Monday, March 29th.

Dr. Andrew E. Boraski announces a new associate...



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To Benefit Local Open Pantry...

AHS Math Club Holding "Canned Food Drive"

The Math Club of Agawam High School is sponsoring a "Canned Food Drive" for the Open Pantry of Agawam-West Springfield. Homerooms are competing for a Dunkin' Donuts breakfast.

In the first week of a four-week competition, the Math Club has collected 723 items from homerooms.

At present, Mr. Vecchiarelli is in first place with 180 cans; Mr. Kidd is in second place with 140 cans; and Mr. Pulaski is in third place with 131 cans.

The can drive will end on March 25th, and at that time we will update you on our totals and winners.

American International College Slates Open House For March 20th

Prospective college students and their families will visit American International College **Saturday, March 20th** to preview what college life is all about.

AIC is hosting an **Open House at 9:30 a.m.** for high school students and transfer students.

"Open House provides students and their families with the opportunity to learn first-hand what life at American International College is about," said Gerald Root, dean of Admissions. "They can talk to our faculty and students, and learn about our academic programs, student life, admissions, and financial aid process."

The program will begin with registration and tours of the campus from the lobby of the Karen Sprague Cultural Arts Center. At 10:15 a.m., attendees will hear a welcome from Vice President of Student Affairs Blaine K. Stevens, Dean Root, and Dean of the School of Business Administration Michael Peterson.

Their addresses will be followed by the student panel discussion. From 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, faculty and administrators will be on hand in the West Wing to answer questions about academic programs available at the College.

Lunch in AIC's award-winning Dining Commons will be served from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Admissions staff will be available to provide prospective freshmen and transfer students with on-the-spot admission decisions and transfer course credit evaluation. Transfer students should bring a copy of all current transcripts. Freshmen need to bring their high school transcripts, SAT scores, and a recommendation.

For more information, please contact the Admissions Office at (413) 747-6201.

Sarah Hart Earns Bachelor's Degree From UMass-Amherst

Sarah Hart recently earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She is the daughter and Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Hart of Hartland Hollow Road, Granville.

Her undergraduate activities included study and travel on the European continent. During her junior year of college abroad, she was a student at the University of Seville in Spain.

Sarah is the granddaughter of former Agawam residents Paul and Shirlee (Balboni) Harrison of Honey Pot Road, Southwick. She is the great-granddaughter of Mrs. Fernando Balboni, also formerly of Agawam, and the late Mr. Balboni.

Youth Cheerleaders Holding Tryouts

Agawam Youth Cheerleaders will hold tryouts and registration for the 1999 cheerleading season at the Agawam Middle School on the following days:

Monday, March 22nd, 5:00-7:00 p.m.; Tuesday, March 23rd, 5:00-7:00 p.m.; Wednesday, March 24th, 5:00-7:00 p.m.; and Thursday, March 25th (tryouts), 5:00-7:00 p.m. (juniors), 7:00-9:00 p.m. (seniors).

All children who are entering grades five and six in September 1999 are eligible for the Junior Squad. All children who are entering grades seven and eight in September 1999 are eligible for the Senior Squad.

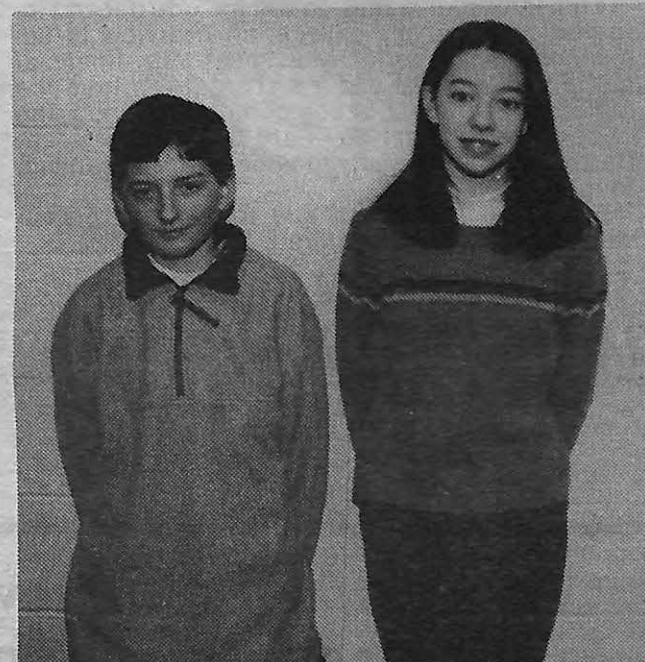
Pee Wees (grades three & four in Sept. 1999) will be determined by the number of applicants.

For more information, please call Sue Svadeba at 786-2592 or Irene Lemieux at 789-3071.



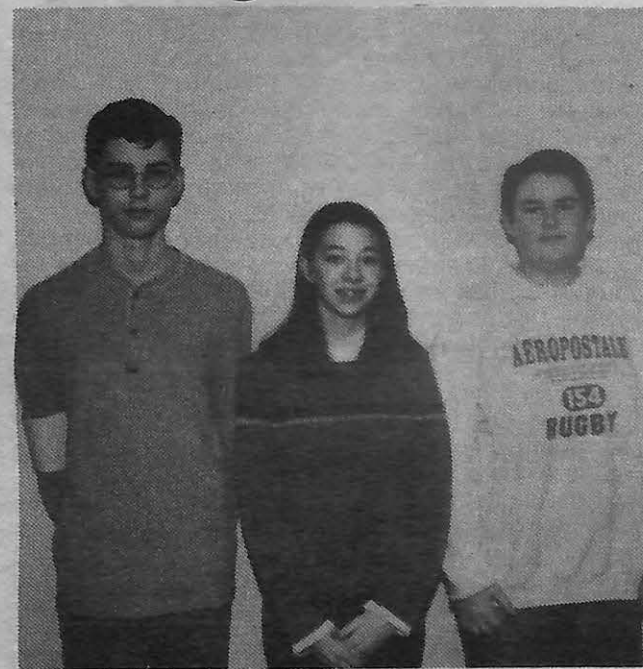
MEMBERS OF THE Agawam High School Math Club proudly display the bags of canned goods that have been donated so far for the club's "Canned Food Drive." This drive will benefit the Open Pantry of Agawam-West Springfield. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Noted Art Students...



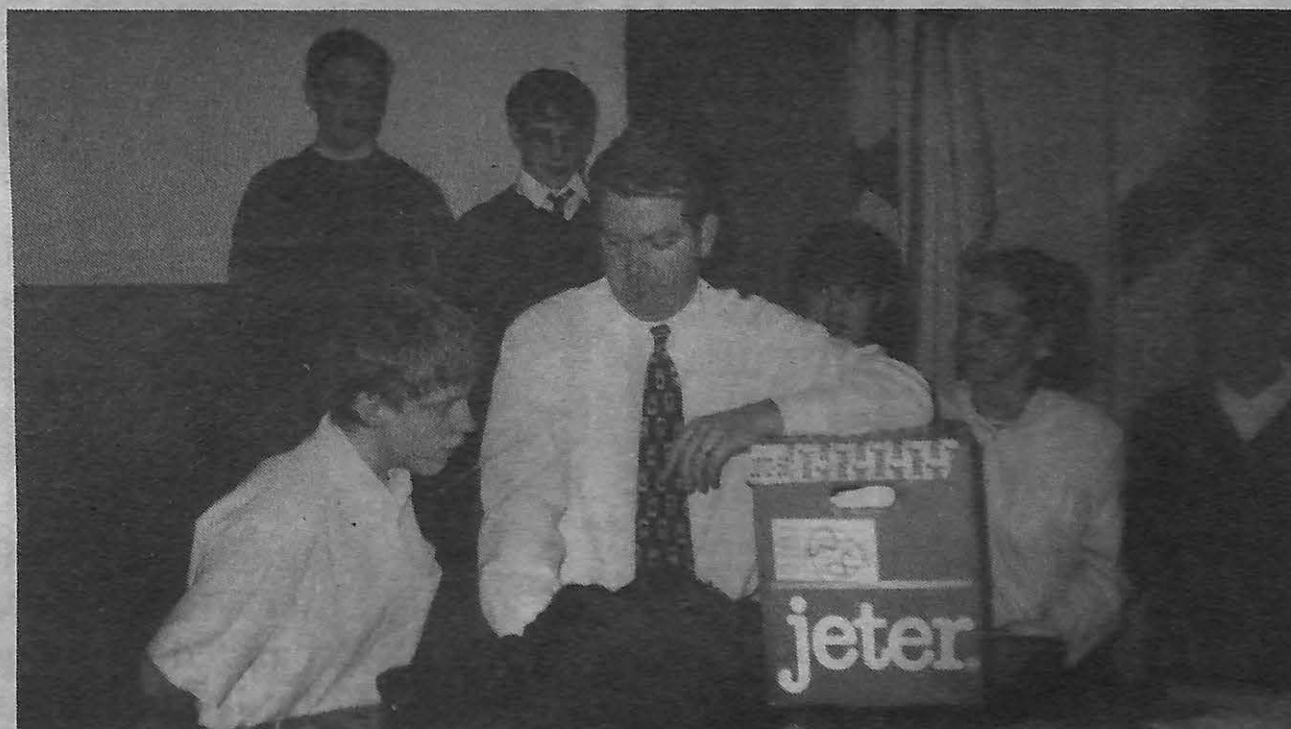
ANTHONY SAPELLI AND JODIE PFAU were recently honored as the "Art Students of the Month" for February at Agawam Junior High School. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Congratulations!



THE POSTER CONTEST WINNERS during Agawam Junior High's "Language Week": Nathan Krach (1st), Jodie Pfau (3rd), and Ben Sunny (2nd). Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Students Learn About Meteorology...



METEOROLOGIST JASON RUSSELL (center) from Channel 40 recently enlightened Springfield Christian School student Amy Bramhall of Feeding Hills about the science of studying the earth's weather. Other participating Junior High students were (from left to right) Zach Rheault and Matt Greco of Feeding Hills, Melanie Burkhart of West Springfield, and Sara and Rachael Schnepp, also of Feeding Hills.

Sports

Girls' Basketball Review...

AHS Girls Enjoy Another Banner Hardwood Season

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Another season is in the record book for the Agawam High girls' basketball team. They finished up at 20-2, won the Valley Wheel crown, and were runners-up in the Division I Western Mass. tournament, losing 51-46 to three-time champ Minnechaug Regional in the finals at the Mullins Center.

Coach Lou Conte, who finished his 13th season at the Brownie helm, was philosophical about the year as a whole. "No one likes to lose. It was a tough ending. I really didn't think we'd be 19-0 going into our regular season loss to Longmeadow. I thought it would be more like 16-3 or 17-2." (Agawam lost to the Lancers, 55-50, in their next to last regular season contest but beat them, 44-41, in the semi-finals).

Conte, who now has 236 career victories and has led the team to nine league titles (plus six in a row in the last 11 years) will suffer some big blows. The team he'll greet next season will be totally different. Senior frontliners Barbara Maloni, Melissa Cote, Pia Bertone-Gross, along with Kara Tierney, will be gone. Maloni (584 pts, including 18 three's, 26.5 ppg), Cote (212 pts, 9.6 ppg), and Bertone-Gross (142 pts, 6.4 ppg) supplied the firepower. Cote (8.7 rebs a game) and Bertone-Gross (6.2 rebs a game) did the board work with Maloni (5 rebs a game) also contributing in that department.

Conte knows he will no longer have a team of stars as has been the case for many seasons during this strong 13-year run. "We won't have the size anymore. There will be a lack of overall experience as well. But we'll continue to be an up-tempo club, as we always have been," he said.

They will have some vital returnees. Foremost among them will be point guard Jill Gendron (134 pts, including seven 3's, 6 ppg) and center/forward Laura Bucalo (43 pts). Both will be juniors. Gendron came on early and helped run the offense, freeing up Maloni to drive the lane or pop from downtown.

Bucalo, who gained valuable varsity experience as a freshman and saw a good deal of action this season, will be counted on for her rebounding. If she should grow a few inches over the summer, and things like that can happen to kids, then she could be a force under the glass where she can already hold her own.

Also returning will be junior Jen Lyman, as well as junior two-guard Kate Shannon (starter) and Sheri Benton. They were role players this past season and will get the call next time around. One possible player who should help score next year is sophomore Liz Stieg. She showed well at times when called upon. With some work and experience, she might be a force.

1,223 Points In 22 Games

The Brownies scored 1,232 points in 22 games (56 ppg) and gave up 814 (37 points against). Their highest point total was a 74-37 win over Taconic. Their lowest total of the season was a 41-25 win in their first game against Longmeadow High.

Maloni had a season high 48 in a 67-59 win over Monument Mountain. Bertone-Gross had 19 in the playoffs against Pittsfield. Cote threw in 15 in a 71-54 win over Amherst. Tierney's high was eight in a 63-39 win over Central. Other good showings included seven for Shannon in the first Minnechaug game (a 44-37 Brownie win). Bucalo had eight in the final regular season 52-28 win over West Side. Gendron recorded 19 in the first win against Amherst Regional (56-35). Stieg had 13 in the opening 65-25 win over Northampton. Benton had four in the first Amherst win and Lyman managed four in a 55-27 victory against Chicopee.

Looking back on the season and the others in his 13-year career, Conte mentioned that while he had many outstanding players - from Kristen Schmaelzle to Sarah Cote to Kristen Patterson to Maloni - even the kids who played the roles contributed.

"All my players had one important thing - heart," he explained. "That's why we have been successful. I feel it's the way we'll continue to find success."

All the local news with us, each week

Season Of Promise Hits Many Roadblocks For AHS Boys

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High boys' basketball team suffered through a 2-18 season. They had hoped to better their 1997-98 record of 4-16. It looked like a possibility. But no one can predict the injury jinx or key players who left the program. The Brownie boys experienced all of that in the past campaign.

They had three legitimate stars: 6'4" senior center Dave Strole; 5'10" senior point guard Joe Divirgilio; and 6' senior power forward Marc Pedraza. Plus, there was 6'2" senior forward Matt Albano, as well as an up-and-comer - 6' sophomore forward Lou Conte. Their problems during the season would sound the death knell for the Brownies.

Agawam started out well, winning two of its first four. Then the wheels came off. During a rebound battle in a losing effort (65-39) against top-ranked Chicopee Comp on December 23rd, Albano tore up an ankle after coming down from a rebound. He was out for the season. Even though they beat Ludlow (60-53) five days later, without Albano they lost strength underneath.

The win against Ludlow would be Agawam's last of the season. But it didn't have to be that way. The subsequent 18-game losing streak could have been headed off. But fate would not allow it.

Three games later, in a 70-38 loss to powerful Commerce, Strole (averaging 12 points and seven rebounds a game) went down with a knee injury, which would keep him out for a week-and-a-half. Then Divirgilio (averaging nine points a game as a point guard, and being the team leader at the time with seven three-pointers) quit for personal reasons.

A Blessing In Disguise...

The Brownies were getting beaten up by everyone now. Coach Gary Grumoli, knowing he was up against it, started bringing kids up from the junior varsity - Sean Mercadante, Bill Menard, and Adam Ellsworth (all of whom were without any varsity experience, however). Yet, it was a blessing in disguise. The season was lost, but they all played and gained valuable varsity experience which will be put to good use next



SENIORS DAVID STROLE (left) and Marc Pedraza were two of the bright lights for AHS boys' hoop in 1998-1999. photo by Dave Rollins.

season.

Strole came back on January 20th against West Springfield and scored six points. But, you could tell he was hurting. The big guy would make his average or above it the rest of the way on pure guts.

To add insult to injury, Conte went down with a bad knee in the third-to-last game of the season, a 62-54 loss to Longmeadow (which they might have won had the rapidly-improving sophomore been there at the end).

During the time of travail, senior co-captain

SEE AHS BOYS' HOOP - Page 38...

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Hockey Review...

High-Scoring AHS Hockey Team Looks To '99

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High boys' hockey team started out the season with a disadvantage - numbers. "No, we don't have enough kids to make up three lines the way most teams do. Our first two lines are excellent. The third will be mix and match," Coach Fran Pycko noted way back in December.

The defending Fay Division co-champs did quite well, winning the division outright with a 13-5-2 record. It was good enough to get them the number five seed in the Western Mass. Tournament.

They got there because they played Pycko hockey - fast, aggressive, and bold. They scored 111 times during the 22-game (20 regular/2 playoff) season, for an average of five goals a game. They were led by sophomore forward Tony LeClaire (29 goals/15 assists), junior forward Dave Gusek (20 goals/14 assists), and senior forward Andy Radwanski (11 goals/16 assists).

Also chipping in were senior forward Tony Kosinski (13 goals/12 assists) and his brother, freshman forward Mike Kosinski (9 goals/9 assists).

Their problem was defense. Ninety-one goals in 22 games translates out to four a game. That is not a lot of margin for error. But they did have some outstanding defensemen, led by three-year starter (junior) Brian Gilhooley and sophomore Adam Sprague, along with Jason Callahan and Joe Case.

They were as aggressive as the offense, which meant they would occasionally get caught too far up ice. The reason they could give up the goals against the way they did was because of their strong keepers - senior Mike Schmidt and juniors Derek Mercadante and Ben Kashmanian.

Schmidt got the bulk of the duty midway through the season and showed well. He made the big stops when they were most needed.

Agawam started out its season with a 10-5 loss to the eventual Western Mass. champion Minnechaug Regional. "We didn't really have things together at that point," Pycko admitted. Then they went 5-3-1 to complete the first half with a record of 6-3-1.

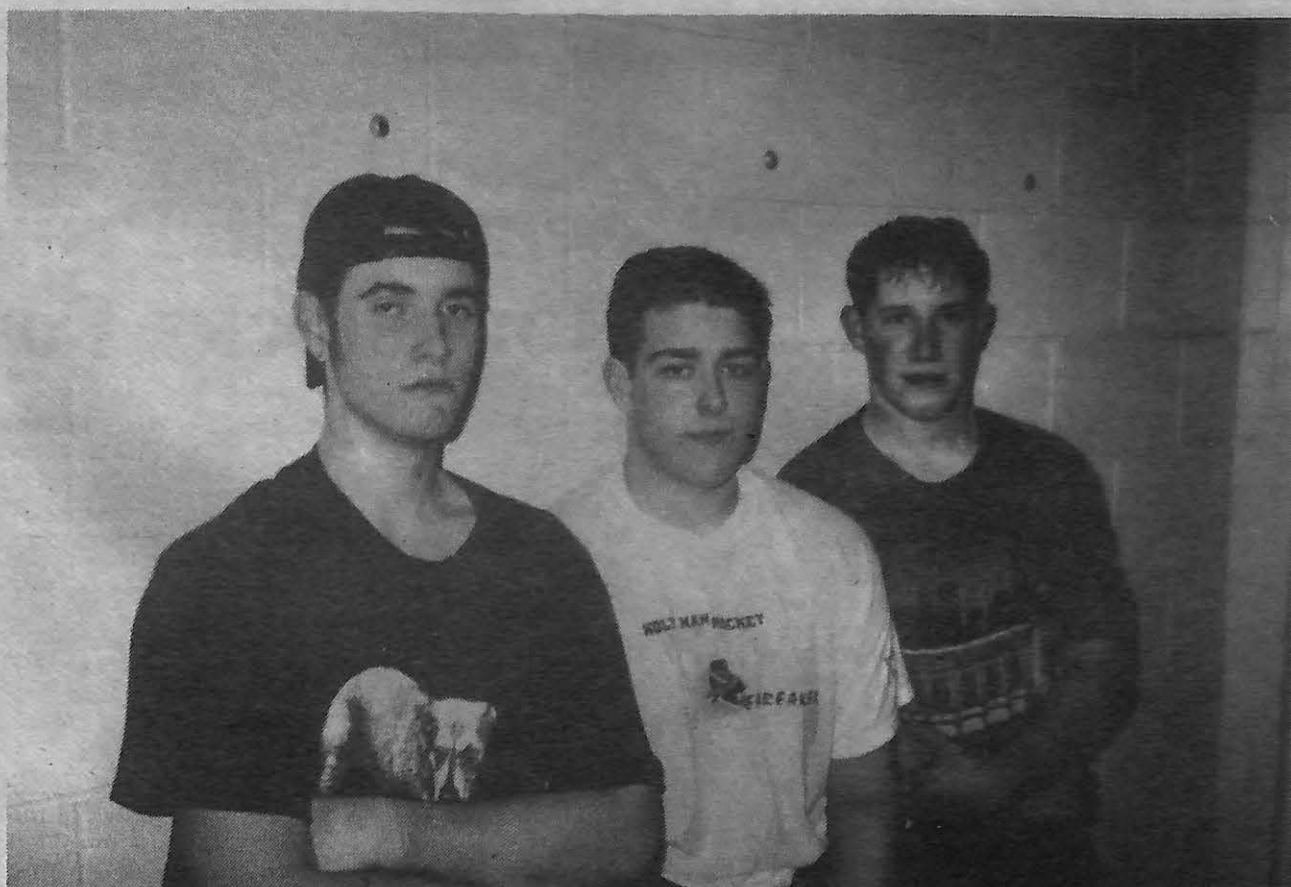
A Learning Experience

They were learning. The second 10 games saw them go 7-2-1. They beat Springfield Central, 8-2, in the first round of the tournament with Brian Pagella getting four goals, but had a tough time doing it. "We sometimes play down to the level of our opponents," Pycko noted of the 12th-seeded Eagles. Their next one was against Longmeadow High, who they had tied, 4-4 during the regular season. The Lancers, fourth-seeded in the tournament and the eventual Western Mass. runners-up (3-0 loss to Minnechaug) were just too much, beating the Brownies, 8-2.

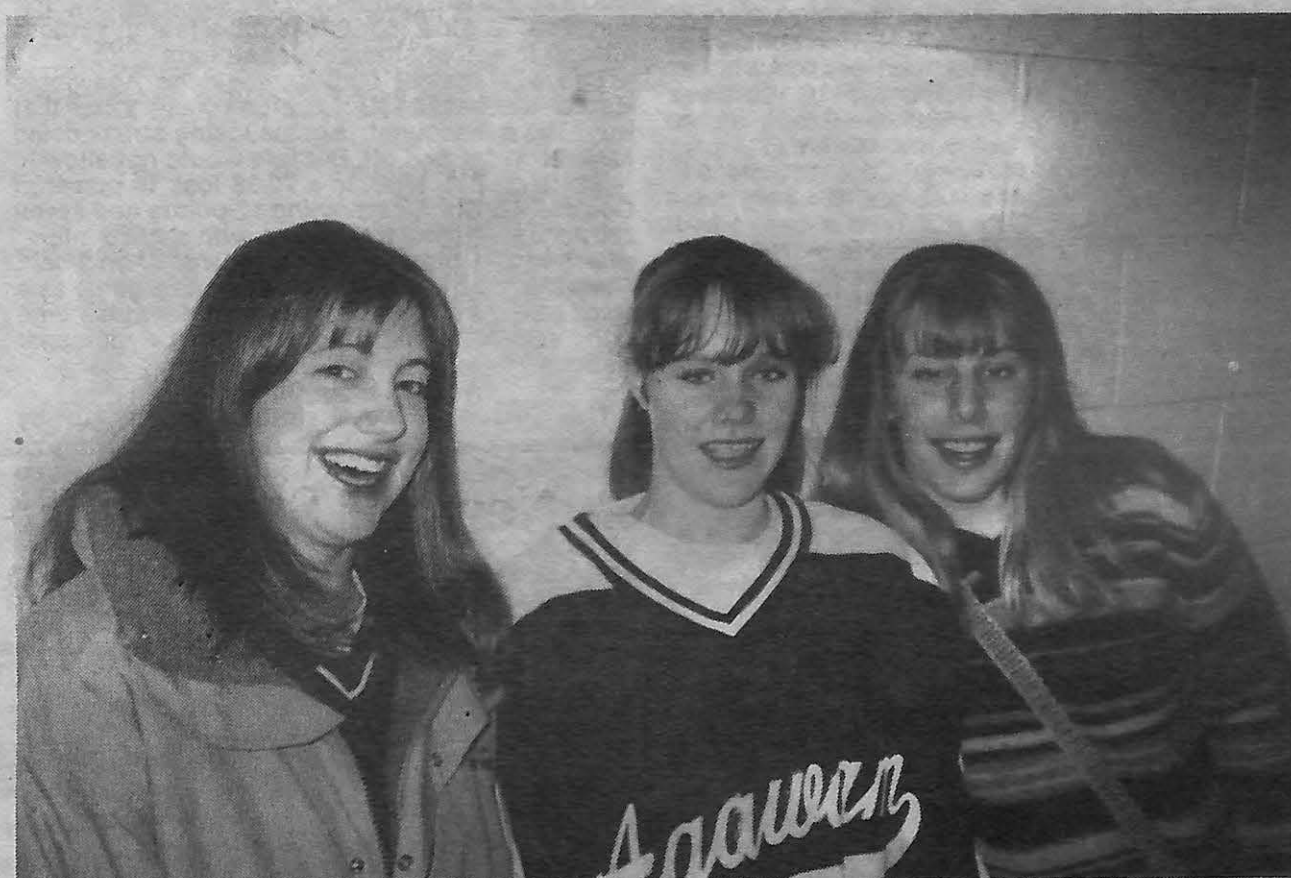
As usual, they were many times outmanned this season, but rarely outgunned. They'll have LeClaire, along with junior forward Jason Malanson (5 goals, 7 assists) back next year, as well as Gusek and Kosinski. They'll be joined by promising sophomore defenseman Joe Case and sophomore forward Greg Glidden. Mercadante and Kashmanian will be fighting for the goalie job. The experience they chalked up this year should help them in their senior seasons, according to Pycko.

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each and every week...*

* * *



THREE KEY MEMBERS OF THE AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL varsity hockey team in 1998-1999 were, from left - Dave Gusek, Tony LeClaire, and Tony Kosinski. photo by Dave Rollins.



AGAWAM HIGH VARSITY HOCKEY TEAM MANAGER Becky Crum (center) and her two helpers, Annie Shibley (left) and Jaime Santos, get little ink but each played an important part in the team's success this past winter season. photo by Dave Rollins.

AHS BOYS' HOOP - from Page 37...

Marc Pedraza escaped injury and played the best basketball of his career. During the year, he averaged 10 points and six rebounds a game. In the stretch run, he averaged 15 points a game, with 20 against West Side; 27 against eventual Division II champion Northampton; 17 against Amherst; and 14 versus Westfield.

However, you still can't have a team decimated the way the Brownies were. "We had a great bunch of kids who knew what they were up against. I told them that basketball is a very small part of their life. What they learn here, if they realize it, will help them as long as they live. We had adversity, we dealt with it, and we never gave up. That is the bottom line," Grumoli pointed out.

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12 noon.

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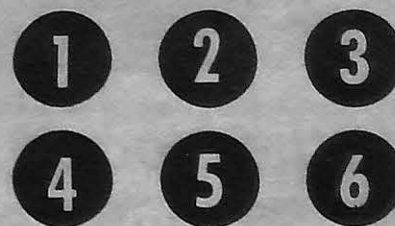
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Maloni Taking Basketball Talents To Brown University Next Fall

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Without a doubt, one of the best athletes ever to grace the playing fields and hardwood courts for the Brownies is Barbara Maloni. Recently, the senior took some time out to talk about her career at Agawam High School.

Barbara turned 18 on November 20th. She is 5'7" tall, which made her a small forward, shooting guard, and a times, point guard on the basketball team.

She has spent her four years of secondary education at the High School. Currently, she is taking AP English, Latin II, U.S. history, and math. Her favorite course is AP English. Barbara is an honor roll student and a member of the Renaissance Club. AP English is the course she favors most and Lawrence O'Brien, who teaches it, is her favorite instructor.

Barbara will attend Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island this fall. Her academic, as well as basketball skills, had a number of schools courting her, including Cornell, Princeton, Columbia, and the University of Pennsylvania. She is not sure just what her major will be at this time.

During her four-year athletic career, Barbara participated in soccer, volleyball, track, and basketball. Basketball is where she made her mark, scoring 1,685 career points (the highest ever for any Brownie basketball player, male or female) and making the All-Western Mass. team from her sophomore to her senior year. She also helped her club win the Valley Wheel title, either outright or a share of it, in her four years on the team and averaged 27 points a game this season.

At this writing, Barbara, who threw the shot put, ran the 400 meters, the 300 hurdles, and was a member of the 4x4 relay team, says she'll sit out the 1999 track season and take a rest from athletics.

It's no surprise that hoop is her favorite sport. She hopes to win a starting job as a freshman at Brown. "It will be a new level and a big challenge, but I think I can do it," she said.

She has several memorable sports moments. Their win this year at Kibbe gym over three-time Western Mass. champ Minnechaug Regional is one of them. Also up there is her 48-point performance in a 69-57 win at Division II champ Monument Mountain earlier this season. And, of course, there was her shot from the right wing last year against West Springfield at Kibbe Gym, which sent her into the 1,000-point club.

She says she isn't totally satisfied with the season just past. "We came up short against Minnechaug in the Western Mass. title game. We concentrated on shutting down their two big scorers (Melissa Kowalski and Maureen Leahy). Who would have thought their role players would step up the way they did," she noted.

Candy is one of her favorite foods.

Green is her top color.

If she could have any car, it would be a Volvo. Michael Jordan and the late Pete Maravich, forward of the Boston Celtics and one of the great collegiate athletes of all time, are her favorite athletes.

Barbara prefers casual attire at school, but favors dressing up if she is going out on the town.

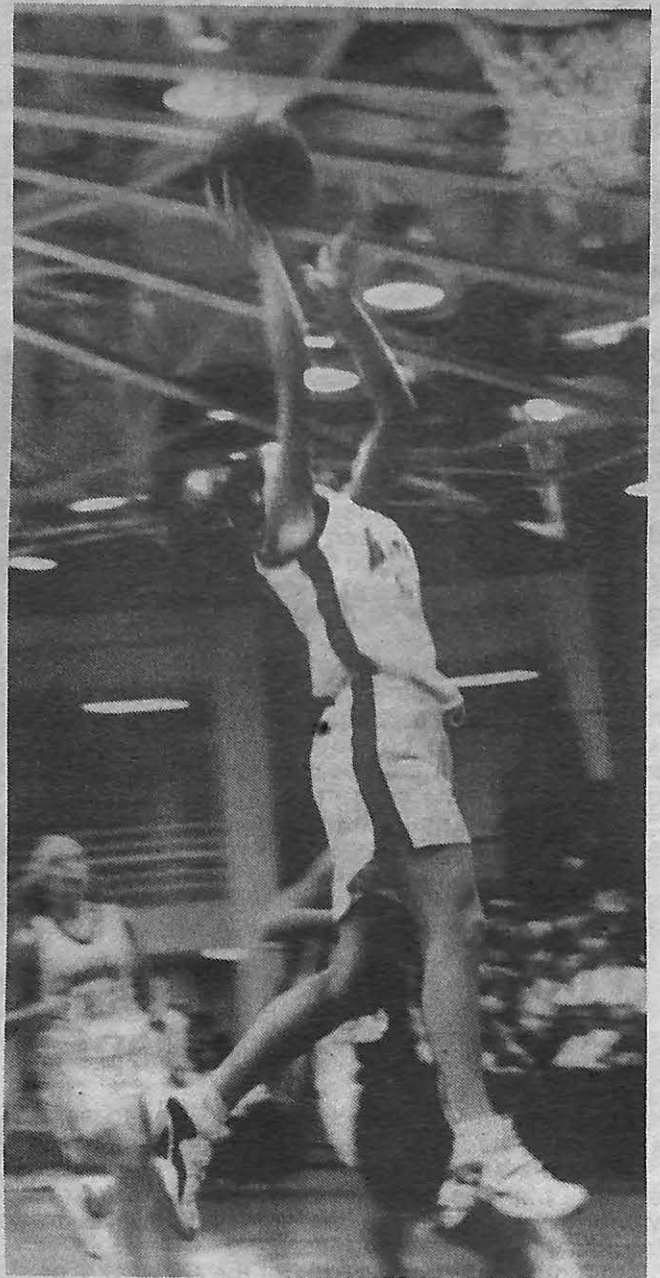
She likes all kinds of music, except country. Creed is her favorite group.

"Friends" is her top TV show. The movie "Pistol Pete" is her favorite flick. "It's about Pete Maravich and really motivates me to play the best basketball I can play. I recommend it to anyone who has an interest in getting better at the game," she smiled.

Cynthia is her mom's name. Her dad's name is Tony. She has four brothers; Anthony (25), Dom (23), Jeremiah (16), and Mario (14). She also has a sister, Jennifer (29), who is a lawyer in New York City.

The person she looks up to is AHS basketball Coach Lou Conte.

SEE BARBARA MALONI - Page 40...



BARBARA MALONI drove to the hoop better than any other female hoop player in Western Mass. during the 1998-1999 season.

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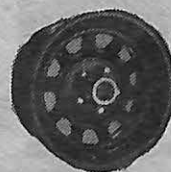
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AAA Thunder Win Suburban Hoop Title Over West Side

The Agawam Thunder recently completed their winter Suburban and CYO basketball schedules. The team is comprised of seventh-grade girls from Agawam who represent the Agawam Athletic Association.

The Thunder began practicing this fall in preparation for a grueling winter basketball season. The team displayed enthusiasm and determination as they developed their basketball skills. They faced strong competition throughout the winter as they played teams from the Greater Springfield and Northampton areas.

The girls grew as a team and were ready for their division's suburban post-season tournament. In an exciting game to start the playoffs, the Thunder defeated Ware at Ware in overtime. A few days later, the Thunder defeated Gateway in the semifinals.

In one of the highlights of the winter, the finals were played at Elms College. The Thunder defeated West Springfield for the championship. The team received outstanding efforts and contributions from all members of the team as they had throughout the season.

The Thunder should be congratulated for their outstanding attitude, success, and development.

The team wishes to thank all their parents, families, and friends for their help and support during this fun and memorable season.

Volley Programs By Agawam Parks Dept.

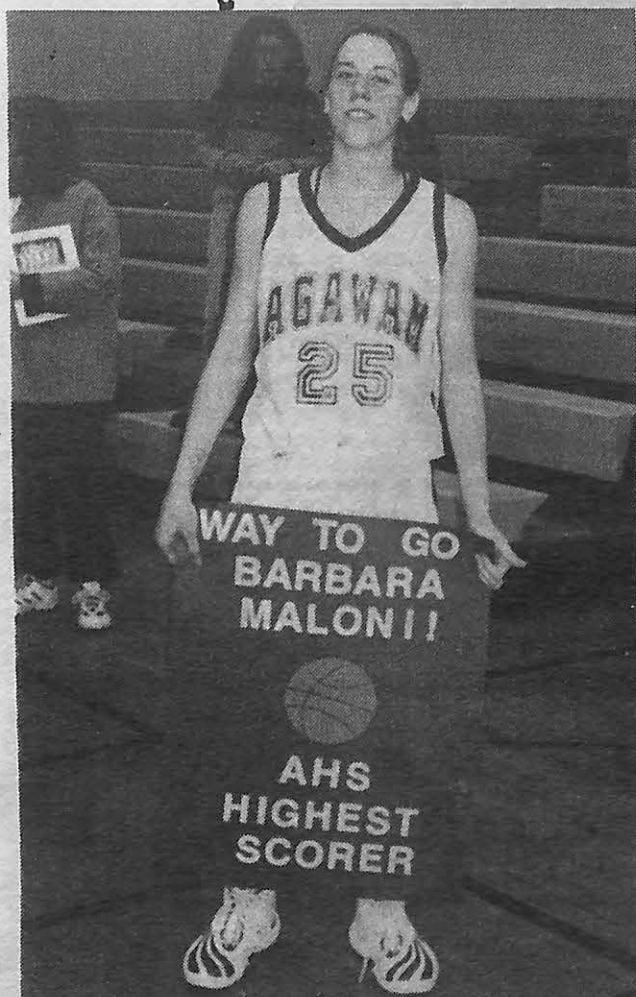
The Agawam Parks & Recreation Department announces the following spring program:

Women's Volleyball will begin another session on April 5th. The program runs for six weeks on Monday evenings at the Junior High School Gym from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Cost of the program is \$15 (for the six weeks) or \$3/night and is payable to the Site Supervisor.

Co-Ed Volleyball will begin another session on April 1st. The program runs for six weeks on Thursday evenings at the Agawam High School Gym from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Cost of the program is \$15 (for the six weeks) or \$3/night and is payable to the Site Supervisor.



BARBARA MALONI ended her spectacular career at AHS with 1,685 points, good for 11th place on the all-time Western Mass. girls' list and by far the best of all-time for any player, boy or girl, at AHS. photo by Dave Rollins.

MALONI - from Page 39...

When her days at AHS are done, Barbara would like to be remembered simply as a person who worked hard and did her best.

"What can you say about Barbara that hasn't already been said," Conte noted. "She was a scorer with a record that might stand for many years. She was a leader. Everyone who played on the team with her became better because of her presence."



MEMBERS OF THE AGAWAM ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION'S 7th/8th grade girls' Thunder basketball team, winners of the Division B Suburban Basketball League Tournament. Back row, from left - Coaches Brian Kelly, Joe Ruhl, Scott Skolnick, and Mike Lyons. Second row - Lisa Ruhl, Maria Doulakis, Jennifer Miarecki, Elizabeth Leon, Sara Skolnick, and Katherine Bitzas. Front row - Ashley Velosky, Joanne Brignoli, Tory Lyons, Meghan Kelly, Caitlin Foley, and Laura Pedersen.



MEMBERS OF THE AGAWAM ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION'S 5th/6th grade girls' Division A team last weekend won the very strong Chicopee Memorial Basketball Tournament and are pictured holding their championship plaques. Team members are, back row, from left - Coach Harold Cote, Kara Powell, Liz Barker, Susan Jenney, Jessica Pokora, and Coach Bob Hersey. Front row - Julie Czuprynski, Jamie Cullen, Lauren Peltier, and Elise Davilli.

AAA 5th/6th Girls Win Prestigious Chicopee Memorial Hoop Tourney

The Agawam AA fifth and sixth grade girls' basketball team put the finishing touches on a fabulous season when they took first place in the sixth Annual Chicopee Memorial Basketball Tournament this past weekend.

This tournament showcased some of the best talent in Western Mass., with teams from Pittsfield, Agawam, North Adams, Southwick, and Ware, as well as teams from as far away as upstate New York.

Agawam faced its first opponent, Belchertown, Tuesday evening at Chicopee Comp. High School. Belchertown was considered a very strong B team (they were second in their league), but they were no match for the AAA girls on this night as Agawam won easily, 41-12.

On Friday evening, Agawam took on the team from East Greenbush, New York. These young ladies had lost only once during the regular season, and they provided some of the best competition Agawam had faced all year.

East Greenbush jumped out to an early lead as it took a little while for the AAA girls to get on track. Once they did, though, they played very well and got some big baskets when they needed them. They won this won, 35-31.

At noon on Saturday, North Adams became the next victim of the Agawam girls. The girls from North Adams played very well in the first half, as well as the playoffs.

On behalf of all the girls and their families, we would like to thank Coaches Bob Hersey and Harold Cote for their many hours of instruction and guidance. Their dedication to these girls all season was remarkable. Thanks, also, to Jim Powell for sharing his expertise.

Congratulations and thanks to Liz Barker, Jamie Cullen, Julie Czuprynski, Elise Davilli, Susan Jenney, Lauren Peltier, Jessica Pokora, and Kara Powell for making this such an exciting, fun, successful, and memorable season!

In Tri-Parish Bowling...

Surprise, Surprise — There Is Now A
Three-Way Tie For First Place In Round Three

If you were to pick a song to best describe the round-three action in the Tri-Parish Bowling League, the now-classic show tune "Anything Goes" would be a pretty good selection.

By the end of the evening on Monday, March 8th, three stalwart teams were tied for first place with identical records of 16.5-7.5 — St. Louis, Holy Cross, and Boston College. Since no single team has managed to securely hold onto the number-one spot for some time now, even the legendary Jimmy The Greek would have had trouble predicting how round three will ultimately turn out.

Meanwhile, Fordham (13.5-10.5) is currently in fourth place, followed closely by St. Anselm's (12-12), Georgetown (11-13), and St. Mary's (10-14). On the lower end of the bowling spectrum, St. Michael's and Catholic University are tied at

8.5-15.5, and Notre Dame returned to the dregs of the lanes with 7-17.

As for the matches on this particular night, Catholic University hog-tied Fordham, 3½-½; Boston College sent St. Anselm's packing, 3-1; St. Michael's clobbered St. Mary's, 3½-½; Holy Cross demolished Georgetown, 4-0; and St. Louis shook Notre Dame's bells, 4-0.

RON "The Don" MENARD was happy as a clam for the men, as his 148 single string and his 390 triple string were good enough for first place. Second-place "Jungle" JIM MCCORMICK also had a very good reason to smile, courtesy of his 123 single and his 355 triple.

The other top-notch guys on March 8th were "Jolly" OLLY MULDREW (128, 357), "Richy" RICH

SNYDER (125, 334), "Luscious" LOU MULDREW (120, 322), "Scary" LARRY AVERY (121, 318), and GLENN "Not Sam" ADAMS (109, 317).

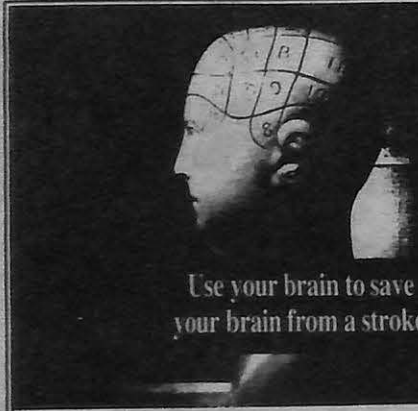
For the ladies, "Testy" BETSY CANNON (134 single string, 363 triple string) was numero uno once again, and she was closely followed by "Go With The" FLO ROCHFORD (133 single, 359 triple).

Not to be outdone by their fellow rollers, the other impressive gals of the evening were MARY "Not Tyler Moore" THOMAS (111, 332), "The Mighty" DEB POIRIER (109, 317), "Terrific" TERRY DION (111, 314), "Juicy" LUCY MENARD (114, 296), and "Delightful" DONNA KOSINSKI (132, 294).

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Games & Lanes	2 1 0 4
Lightning	2 1 0 4
West Side	1 2 0 2
Bandits	1 1 0 2
Falcons	1 1 0 2
Flames	1 2 0 2
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(Specific Times & Grade Brackets Are
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Hosted By Riverside's Announcer...

'The Speedway Line Report' Returns To WHYN AM 560

Riverside Park Speedway and WHYN AM 560 are pleased to announce the return of "The Speedway Line Report" radio show beginning on Monday, March 22nd, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Hosted by Riverside Park Speedway announced Gary Danko, the weekly auto racing show talk show features race reports from around New England, previews of upcoming action at area tracks, and interviews with drivers, promoters, and sponsors.

"We're very excited to bring back this show," stated David Deery, Director of Auto Racing at the Agawam, MA, quarter-mile NASCAR Winston Racing Series facility. "It is a wonderful opportunity for short-track racing in New England to gain exposure through a popular mainstream radio show," continued Deery. "The Speedway Line Report" will air a total of 25 episodes in 1999, beginning with the first installment on Monday, March 22nd.

Deery added that "The Speedway Line" report will occasionally be broadcast live from different locations in the area, a new feature in 1999. "We'll take the show on the road this year," says Deery, "and give people a chance to see us outside the studio, meet our featured guests, meet our host, and get involved in the show!"

Last year's inaugural run of the program included such high-profile guests as Geoff Bodine, Steve Park, Mike McLaughlin, Mike Stefanik, and NASCAR Vice-President Tom Deery. Local racers were also regularly featured on the show, drawing call-ins from local fans and friends. "We will continue to offer a call-in segment on the show," says Deery. "It's a fun part of the program that makes it exciting for people to tune in and be a part of the action."

"The Speedway Line Report" will begin its 1999 schedule with a preview of the upcoming Pepsi 200 for the NASCAR Featherlite Modified Series at Riverside Park Speedway on March 28th. March 22nd's episode will also feature an exclusive interview with Riverside Park's new Director of Auto Racing, David Deery.

For more information, call (413) 786-9300 or visit www.riversideparkspeedway.com on the world wide web. For more information about becoming a sponsor on "The Speedway Line Report," contact David Deery at (413) 786-9300, extension 3264.

4H Horse Club Seeks Donations Of Used Or New Trophies

The Mane-I-Acs 4H Horse Club is looking for donations of used or new trophies to be refurbished and used in our June horse show.

The trophies may be any size and from any activity.

For pickup, please call Bernice Rueli in Agawam at 789-1512, or Janet Pohlman in Southwick at 569-5948.

* * *

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you...

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Outdoors New England

by Kent Servis
Outdoor Writer

Lyme Disease Vaccine Available

It's not just hunters that are at risk for Lyme Disease! Are you planning a little yardwork this spring? How about a little quality time on the banks of your favorite trout stream? Perhaps the family is planning a backyard barbecue, or maybe you will take in a round of golf. Virtually everyone in the Northeast is at risk of contracting this debilitating disease, and the threat is growing.

Recently, I was privileged to be one of about a dozen writers from the eastern half of the country to be invited to an educational conference sponsored by the SmithKline Beecham pharmaceutical company and Cohn & Wolf Healthcare.

Among the speakers were representatives from the PGA, the North American Hunting Club, the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council, and Dr. Michael C. Caldwell, M.D., who is the Commissioner of the Dutchess County Dept. of Health in Poughkeepsie, New York.

The conference was held at the Chelsea Piers Golf Club in Manhattan, New York. The choice of a golfing club was appropriate, as the featured speaker was a professional golfer named Tim Simpson.

Simpson led the PGA tour in 1990 with 12 top-10 finishes. While on a turkey hunting trip prior to the Heritage Tournament in Georgia, Tim's life and career took a sudden and tragic turn.

Tim came down with a fever and shakes before the tournament. His flu-like symptoms turned to muscular weakness, numbness, and tingling ... not very conducive to playing championship golf.

After over a year of visiting medical specialists, Tim was finally diagnosed with Lyme Disease. He is now cured of the active disease, but the after-effects still linger.

Arthritis, nervous system abnormalities including facial paralysis, and cardiac problems can result from a bout with this insidious disease.

We live in one of the highest risk areas in the United States, and our whole families are at risk. Even if you don't venture into the deep woods, a backyard picnic may expose you to these disease-carrying ticks.

The ticks are so small that the bite is seldom felt, and careful examination is necessary to even find them on your body.

Even the family pet can inadvertently bring the ticks into contact with family members who have

not been outside.

Not all ticks are the culprits. The black-legged deer tick is the carrier. They are much smaller and harder to detect than the common dog tick. A bacterium known as *Borrelia burgdorferi* is responsible for the disease, and it lives in the mid-gut of the deer tick.

There are several precautions to take while outdoors. Avoid tick-infested areas and walk in the center of paths to avoid overhanging branches and tall grass. Wear a hat and pull long hair back. Tuck your socks and shirts into pants so ticks can not crawl under your clothing, and wear light-colored clothing so that ticks are easier to spot.

Conduct regular "tick checks" on exposed skin every three to four hours, and have someone else check you for the hard-to-see spots such as your back.

Make sure that your children are thoroughly checked along with your pets.

Remove leaves and clear your backyard of brush or tall grass from around the house and garden areas.

Construct physical barriers to keep wildlife from coming near your homes, and use a good tick repellent when outdoors.

* * *

The best way to prevent Lyme Disease is now available in the form of a vaccine. LYMERix has been developed by SmithKline Beecham and is proven effective in preventing Lyme Disease.

The immunization process consists of a series of three inoculations. The second inoculation is given after 30 days, and the last one is administered at the one-year mark.

The vaccine (LYMERix) is safe and effective. It is a Recombinant OspA. You are not at risk of developing the disease through the inoculation. It is safe and effective.

Dr. Caldwell explained the difficulties in developing the vaccine and in laymen's terms described how the vaccine worked to protect people from the bacteria that causes the disease.

The most fascinating adaptation of this vaccine is the way it combats the bacteria. When an infected tick bites an individual that has taken the vaccine, the person's immune antibodies actually enter the tick with the blood. The bacteria is then killed by your immune system while it is in the tick. In effect, you are curing the tick of the bacteria before the tick can transmit bacteria to your body as it regurgitates prior to dropping off.

I am told that most health plans will cover the majority of the cost of getting immunized. Even if they did not, it would be to your benefit to get immunized right now!

Protect your family and have everyone immunized before the warm weather arrives. This is one instance where an ounce of prevention is worth pounds of cure and a lifetime of debilitating pain and discomfort.

I have taken the inoculation and hope that you will, too. Thank you to the researchers at SmithKline Beecham for the LYMERix vaccine!

There is no excuse to wait. Talk to your family doctor today and arrange for the vaccination for yourself and your family members.

Kent Servis' column is a regular feature of The AAN...

The Agawam Soccer Association

will be holding

Sign-Ups for Fall Soccer



March 27th & May 1st

10:00 a.m. To 2:00 p.m.

Agawam Middle School



These sign-ups are for both

In-Town & Pioneer Valley Programs

(Boys and Girls between the ages of 5 and 17)

\$35 registration fee per child

\$85 Maximum per family

Child's Social Security Number and Date of Birth are Required.

Note: Co-ed under 17 league will play on Sunday afternoons only!

Any further Information please call Dave Shaw at 786-0899.

Turners Gymnasts Have Successful First Meet At Home

The Springfield Turners Gymnastics team turned in an excellent performance in their first meet of the year. The following are the results from their February 27th home meet.

BOYS

10 yrs. and younger

Lower:

Christopher Joachim — 4th on Floor, Vault, Rings, Parallel Bars, Pommel Horse, High Bar, and All-Around.

Upper:

Nathan Scuderi — 3rd on Floor, Vault, Parallel Bars, Pommel Horse, and All-Around, 2nd on High Bar, and **1st on Rings**.

11 yrs. and older

Lower:

Fred Fruwirth — 7th on Floor, 6th on Parallel Bars and All-Around, 5th on Pommel Horse, 3rd on High Bar, 2nd on Rings, and **1st on Vault**.

Christopher Scuderi — 8th on Parallel Bars and Pommel Horse, 7th on Vault and All-Around, 6th on Floor, 5th on High Bar, and 4th on Rings.

Jeffrey Joachim — 8th on Floor and Vault, 7th on Parallel Bars, and 6th on Pommel Horse.

GIRLS

9-11

Lower:

Samantha Fruwirth — 16th on Beam, 2nd Vault, and **1st on Uneven Bars, Floor, and All-Around**.

Brittany Margiotta — 13th on Uneven Bars, 6th on Floor, 3rd on Vault, and 2nd on Beam and All-Around.

Lisa Couture — 12th on Beam, 11th on Vault, 5th in All-Around, 4th on Floor, and 2nd on Uneven Bars.

Jordan Pike — 16th on Vault, 11th on Floor, 9th in All-Around, 7th on Uneven Bars, and 3rd on Beam.

Meaghan Serra — 15th on Uneven Bars, 10th in All-Around, 8th on Beam, and **1st on Floor and Vault**.

Victoria Tran — 16th on Floor, 15th in All-Around, 13th on Vault, 11th on Beam, and 10th on Uneven Bars.

Advanced Lower:

Meghan Little — 7th on Vault and Floor, 6th on Uneven Bars, 5th in All-Around, and **1st on Beam**.

Meagan Pike — 10th on Beam, Floor, and All-Around, 7th on Uneven bars, and 4th on Vault.

Middle:

Lauren Pelkey — 5th on Floor, 4th on Vault, 3rd on Uneven Bars and All-Around, and 2nd on Beam.

Stephanie Obue — 5th on Uneven Bars, 4th in All-Around, 3rd on Floor, and 2nd on Beam and Vault.

Alli Stokowski — 5th in Beam, Vault, and All-Around, and 4th on Uneven Bars and Floor.

12-14

Lower:

Sarah Huffman — 7th on Beam, 5th in All-Around, 4th on Uneven Bars, 3rd on Vault, and **1st on Floor**.

Advanced Lower:

Allison Dassatti — 5th on Uneven Bars, 3rd on Vault, 2nd on Beam, and **1st on Floor and All-Around**.

Nicole Payeur — 7th on Beam, 6th in All-Around, 5th on Uneven Bars, 4th on Floor, and **1st on Vault**.

Nicole Margiotta — 7th on Uneven Bars, Vault, and All-Around, 6th on Floor, and 4th on Beam.

Middle:

Alicia Linder — 4th on Beam, Floor, Vault, and All-Around, and **1st on Uneven Bars**.

Tami Burmeister — 6th on Floor, 5th in Beam and All-Around, and 4th on Uneven Bars and Vault.

15-18

Lower:

Dolores Cuccovia — 2nd on Vault and Uneven Bars, and **1st on Beam, Floor, and All-Around**.

Middle:

Maryann Connor — 4th on Vault, and 3rd on Uneven Bars, Beam, Floor, and All-Around.

Upper:

Lisa Marsh — **1st on Beam, Uneven Bars, Vault, Floor, and All-Around**.

The Turners' next meet will be held on March 27th in Clinton, Massachusetts, at the Clinton Turnverein.

* * * * *

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays...

* * * * *

Agawam Parks & Rec. Announces Upcoming Programs

PIRANHAS SWIM TEAM:

Sponsored by the Agawam Parks and Recreation Department.

For boys and girls, ages five to 18.

Monday through Thursday, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Agawam Junior High School and Perry Lane Pools.

Fee: \$60 per participant.

Season runs the second week of May through the end of July.

New swimmers will try out for the program from April 27th through April 30th between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. at the Junior High School Pool.

Registration will be accepted at the Recreation Office from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. beginning Monday, May 3rd, and ending Friday, May 7th.

YOUTH TRACK PROGRAM:

Participants will learn the fundamentals of track and field.

Open to boys and girls, ages seven to 14.

Held at the Agawam High School on Sunday afternoons, beginning April 25th.

Registration now being accepted at the Recreation Office.

Fee: \$25 for six weeks. Instructor: Dan Pryce.

WALKING GROUP:

Any adult interested in walking for exercise is asked to contact the Recreation Office.

The program is coordinated by Officer Karen Langevin and participants meet weekly to walk at the AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL.

For more information on the above programs, call the Recreation Office at 821-0514.

(Watch for detailed information on summer camps and other programs.)

Golf Privilege Card Can Bring Spring One Step Closer

Tired of winter already? Got the post-holiday blahs? The good news is that the days ARE getting longer AND the Golf Privilege Card® is available for spring at only \$39.95.

You can look forward to over \$1,400 worth of golf-related discounts this spring, summer, and fall. This statewide card has 74 golf courses, 26 of which are in Western Mass. as well as 26 golf-related businesses, 11 of which are in Western Mass.

For details, call the American Lung Association of Western Mass. at (413) 737-3506 or 800-LUNG-USA (in Mass.). Proceeds from the Golf Privilege Card® underwrite asthma education for children and adults in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire counties.

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Gene Lubarsky And Eric Lubarsky Of Agawam



ALAN FERRIGNO, VICTOR SAULUK, and Mawaga Club President Steve Roberts are looking forward to the club's 10th Annual Lunker Derby on April 11th. Even our four-legged friends like "Loafer" the dog (far right) are looking forward to this early-spring event. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Mawaga Sporting Club Slates Annual Lunker Derby For April 11th

The Mawaga Sporting Club, Inc. will host its 10th Annual Lunker Derby at the club's facility on Adams Street, Agawam on April 11, 1999, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Tickets are \$15 and also include breakfast, which will be served from 7:00-9:00 a.m.

Last year, over 200 anglers tested their skills competing for cash prizes of \$200, \$100, \$50, and \$25 for first, second, third, and fourth largest trout caught.

The club's pond will be well stocked for the event. Tickets may be purchased from club members and area businesses.

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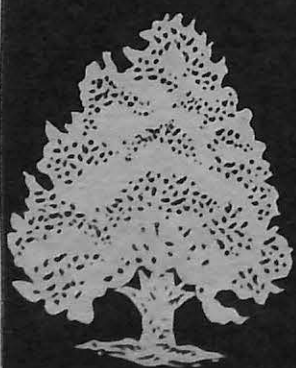
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